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Local Government Service

No. 8 AUGUST, 1933 Vol. XV

N.A.L.G.O.'s SUMMER SCHOOLS

SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT OXFORD AND ST. ANDREWS

SINCE the first Summer School was held at Keble College, Oxford, in 1930, increasing success has attended each annual function. This year, the fourth school for England and Wales, which was held at University College, Oxford, from July 15 to 22, attracted a record number of participants, and stimulating discussions followed the very interesting series of lectures. By means of the lectures, a conception of the wider implications of local government was outlined, but an equally important aspect of the school was that, in their "free" moments, the members eagerly debated their own particular problems.

A group of Students at the Oxford Summer School

The school was ably organised by Mr. T. Harvatt, B.A., Barrister-at-Law, Education Secretary of N.A.L.G.O. At the inaugural dinner on Saturday, July 15, the chief guest was Sir W. H. Hadow, C.B.E., Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Local Government Officers and formerly Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University. Owing to delay in the railway service from Cardiff, the President (Mr. C. G. Brown, LL.B.) was unable to preside, and his place was taken by Mr. John Chaston, F.C.I.S., Chairman of the N.A.L.G.O. Education Committee. Among the guests were the Mayor of Oxford (Alderman C. H. Brown, J.P.), Mrs. Adams, Talks Director of the British Broadcasting Corporation; Alderman Dr. Stobie, O.B.E.; the Rev. F. J. Lys, M.A., Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and Provost of Worcester College; Professor Harvey Walker; Councillor R. H. Hume, M.A., Chairman of the Education Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations; Alderman E. G. Rowlinson, President of the Association of Education Committees; Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee of N.A.L.G.O.; Mr. W. I. Jennings, M.A., Reader in English Law in the University of London, and Mr. T. Simey, M.A., Lecturer at Liverpool University. Others present included Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O.; Mr. W. J. D. Slatcher, President, and Mr. E. T. Hawley, Secretary of the Oxford County Branch of N.A.L.G.O.

In the picturesque antiquity of the college dining hall, with its stained-glass windows and vaulted roof, the progressive views expressed by the speakers were by way of contrast. Introducing Sir W. H. Hadow, Mr. Chaston first of all referred with regret to the absence of the president on behalf of whom he extended a welcome to the students and guests. "This is an outstanding event in connection with the Summer Schools of our Association," he remarked. Not only had they with them such a distinguished administrator as Sir W. H. Hadow, but for the first time their gathering was attended by representatives of associations of local authorities which he considered as outstanding evidence of a desire on the part of these associations to link up with the work of N.A.L.G.O.

Sir W. H. Hadow's Address

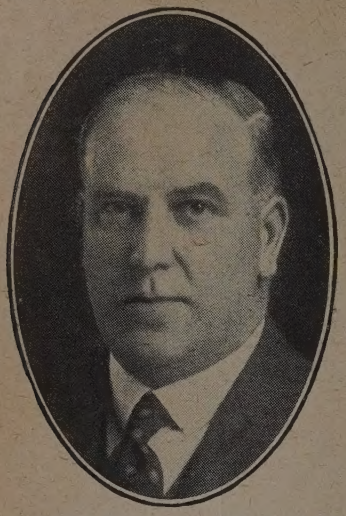
Sir W. H. Hadow, who was received with cheers, recalled that one of the characters in Mr. Lowes Dickinson's book "Modern Symposium" held out the idea of ultimate reformation being along the lines of the country ruled from end to end by one large Civil Service from the point of view of special training. "This is perhaps too dazzling an ideal for us to envisage at once," added Sir Henry, "but so far as we can approximate to it, I do not think we could have a more encouraging augury than this great gathering." The important, penetrating work of the local government service was, he thought, being more and more put into the hands of carefully trained experts, and at no time in the history of the country had it ever stood so high or worked so efficiently as at the present.

Sir Henry was impressed by the work of N.A.L.G.O. He remarked on the growing membership of the Association—he believed they now numbered between 68,000 and 69,000—and spoke of the enormous field which the Association covered, not only carrying out the technical relations between the employers and employees inside the service, but in maintaining its building society, a convalescent home, in organising cruises and in a variety of ways, right down the list of the requirements of the local government service. He mentioned the distribution of Christmas hampers, which he considered a very laudable part of the Association's work. One of the chief activities of the Association, he thought, was its educational work, through which it looked after and organised the qualifications of a very large number of people engaged in the service. He understood that young men entered the service, sometimes no more than 15 or 16 years of age, and naturally, therefore, it was necessary carefully to scrutinise the qualifications of these young men and also to take note of the opportunities which might be provided in order that they should increase and further their technical knowledge, skill, and experience after entering the portals of the service.

Turning to another aspect of this subject, Sir Henry said he had heard the opinion expressed that there should be centralisation as regards training. Personally, he did not think this was at all feasible on account of the large number of authorities of different sizes which made it impracticable to bring them under one scheme. In some cases, he added, the personnel of an authority was perhaps a thousand, while in others it was less than six. There was such a variety of problems and differences that it seemed to him it would be over-centralisation to bring them under one purview. While not anticipating the findings of a certain committee, as far as he was concerned the idea of one scheme for the whole country was Utopian.

"I am not going to give away any stable secrets," he observed, alluding to the work of the committee of which he is chairman. "I can only give you one piece of information. We have been at this work for two hard-working years, and we are going to report in the autumn." It had been hoped, he added, that the last meeting would have been held this month, but this had proved impossible owing to the great amount of work entailed. He was sure that some of them knew better than he the problems involved in getting municipal authority work under way. A vast amount of evidence had been taken, analysed, and drafted out. "The egg will be laid in the autumn, and then it will be your turn to sit upon it," said Sir Henry, adding, "I come now as a well-wisher. I sympathise with your work and, with most cordial expectations that it will go on to improve

SUMMER SCHOOLS (*continued*)



Mr. JOHN CHASTON, F.C.I.S., F.S.S., Clerk, Kettering U.D.C. Chairman of N.A.L.G.O. Education Committee.

Mr. John Chaston, F.C.I.S., F.S.S., Chairman of the Education Committee of N.A.L.G.O., is clerk to the Kettering U.D.C., and has had a distinguished career in the public service. He has been a member of the National Executive Council of N.A.L.G.O. since 1924. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Urban District Councils' Association, and was recently elected chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Society of Clerks of Urban District Councils. Mr. Chaston's enthusiastic interest in everything appertaining to education in the service is also evidenced by his membership of the Poor Law Examinations Board and of the London County Council's Panel of Examiners. He is a member of the National Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities (Non-Trading Services) manual workers. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. In addition to his other activities in connection with N.A.L.G.O., he was formerly chairman of the East Midland and Eastern District Committees of the Association and also of the East Midland B. and O. Committee. From the deputy clerkship of the Kettering U.D.C., Mr. Chaston went to Wellingborough as Clerk of the Council, a post which he held for two years when he returned to Kettering as Clerk of the Council.

and enlarge as the years go by, I have much pleasure in opening the Summer School to all participants."

MR. JOHN CHASTON'S SPEECH

The Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Mayor of Oxford each extended a warm welcome to the school. Mr. Chaston, reflecting upon the educational policy of the association, reiterated his previous remarks regarding the presence of representatives of associations of local authorities, and added that he hoped next year the County Councils' Association and the Urban District Councils' Association would also be represented. He expressed appreciation of the facilities granted by local authorities to enable students to attend the Summer School—facilities which, he said, were growing each year. Local authorities, he considered, were awakening to the complexity of local government and to the need for qualified officers.

He suggested that when the report of the Departmental Committee came to be issued, those authorities which had been apathetic in the past would have their attention drawn to the increase in the capacity and qualifications of personnel of officers in this country. In their association, he said, the need for this high standard of personnel had been recognised, and in 1927 they showed the necessity for investigation into recruiting and training, and the provision of facilities for learning during service. The Royal Commission had followed, the matter up and felt that the subject was so important that they recommended the appointment of a special Departmental Committee, over which their guest, Sir W. H. Hadow, was appointed to preside.

Recruitment and Training

Looking forward to the report which the Departmental Committee are to present, Mr. Chaston was inclined to think that a certain amount of attention had been given to the association's policy in relation to the question of the recruitment and training of personnel, and he added that N.A.L.G.O. stood not only for the betterment of conditions of service as affecting the officer himself apart from anything else, but they wished that the local government of the country should be improved by having personnel of the right type in the service. By betterment, it was not his intention to convey the impression of a kind of "pluperfect card-index system," but an endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of the service of the officer and the creation in the minds of public people of a belief in the integrity and fairness of the officer in everyday life. The high standard of life in the country had been largely built up by local government. Since the war local authorities had attended to the technical side of the administration of hundreds of Acts of Parliament. Any attempt to impair the efficiency of the service by the undermining effects of economy must be carefully watched.

In aiming at higher efficiency, Mr. Chaston added, the Association had long urged the desirability of imposing a minimum qualification for entrance into the service, and claimed that the First Schools Certificate should be that qualification. The Association further recommended that the officers, while in the service, should be provided with facilities for attending university courses. In 1925 it was suggested that a representative Joint Examinations Board should be formed, consisting of members of local authorities, officers and representatives of universities. This, he thought, might be a line on which the Departmental Committee would report and, if so, it would be very acceptable to the Association.

Association's Examinations

In the absence of local authorities establishing such a scheme, their Association had inaugurated examinations to meet the requirements of those officers not catered for by professional associations, the preliminary examination being equivalent to the First Schools Certificate. There were many aspirants, but the majority of these were totally unfitted to be in the civil or local government services. The object of the Summer School, observed Mr. Chaston, was to create something more than vocational instruction, developing the cultural side by closer contact with the universities. He referred to the Association's scholarship scheme by which students were assisted in studying for the Diploma in Public Administration, and concluded, "We ask that, in our efforts to improve the service, local authorities and others will co-operate with us."

During the course of the week, three groups of lectures were discussed, and among those who took part in the debates were Dr. Leupold, of Germany; Professor L. White, of Chicago; and Professor Harvey Walker, of Ohio.

LOCAL SERVICES

Under the heading of "Local Services," Mr. W. I. Jennings gave four lectures in which he studied various "defects" in the present system of local government and suggested probable solutions. There was a tendency, he said, for independent statutory bodies to be established, such as the Metropolitan Water Board, the Port of London Authority, Drainage and Catchment Commissions, and, recently, the London Passenger Transport Board. It had been suggested that the whole of the Poor Law administration should be transferred to a commission. Mr. Jennings regarded the formation of such independent bodies with suspicion, believing that, although improvements might be made in the system of government, it was not fundamentally faulty, and the remedy was to reform the service.

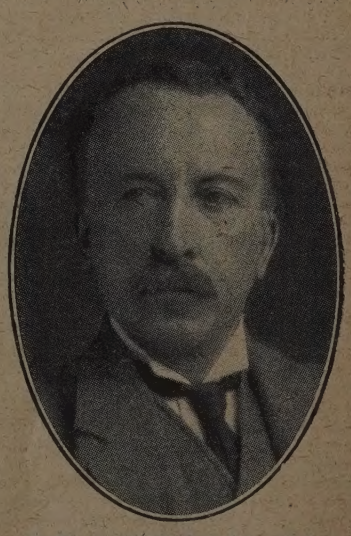
He rather favoured a policy of integration and co-ordination and, in an interesting series of stages, he showed how agriculture was dependent upon land drainage, drainage upon sewerage, and so on to river pollution, cleansing, highways, building and utility services. Why should these services be split up? Would it not be better that the work of, say, the traffic commissioners, should be performed by an existing organisation rather than by an independent body? He did not feel that there was a case for the limitation of services performed by local authorities; rather was he inclined to anticipate the devolution of additional duties because Parliament was already overworked, and control was theoretical. Such services which might be devolved would be essentially central services, and the function of local authorities in that case would be purely ministerial.

The L.P.T.B.

On the question of Traffic Commissioners, a student asked whether the lecturer was of the opinion that the formation of the London Passenger Transport Board was progressive. "So far as it is co-ordination it is a step forward, but in my opinion it is not entirely a step in the right direction," Mr. Jennings replied.

Passing on to the subject of areas, he considered that the core of local government was public health, to administer which, he thought, comparatively small areas were needed. He expressed the opinion that these areas should be co-ordinated by advisory committees covering areas of the country—as in the case of the Lake District—where there were common problems. It was necessary to have a good deal of regional consultation. He favoured the county borough as a unit of administration as compared with the borough, and hoped that during the next decade it would be possible for agreement to be reached with regard to a new Local Government Act which would enable the minimum of population for county borough status to be reduced. Replying to a question, he saw no reason why there should be any distinction between rural and urban district councils.

"The efficiency of the Officers" was the subject of the third lecture by Mr. Jennings. At the outset he said that this efficiency was impaired by four conditions, namely, inferiority of status, part-time officers, the predominance of the lawyer, and the absence of an executive head. Presuming that the higher the status of an officer the higher his intellectual ability, Mr. Jennings said that very small authorities found it impossible to get competent staffs, and most of them had part-time officers, which possibly meant a clash between public and private interests. There was a lack of specialised



Sir W. H. HADOW, C.B.E., M.A., Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Local Government Officers.

SUMMER SCHOOLS (*continued*)

knowledge, and salaries were generally low. It must be remembered that rural areas could only have fully-qualified officers by extending their boundaries almost to the size of counties, and the only way out of this difficulty, he believed, was for areas to co-operate as in the case of medical officers. There should be joint appointments for such areas and, of necessity, some way of compelling reluctant, sparsely-populated areas to come into such a scheme.

"Is it necessary that the senior administrative officer should be a lawyer?" Mr. Jennings asked. The Society of Town Clerks said 'Yes.' He entirely agreed that any officer must have a good training in local government law, but maintained that a solicitor's training was the worst possible training for an administrator—it was narrow and placed undue emphasis on precedent. An administrator must have a wide vision and the ability to grasp the broader implications of a question, however technical it might be. Further, he contended that an authority should endeavour to secure the best possible administrator whatever his qualifications, be he a public assistance officer, an education officer, or other competent official. In many cases, unless he was a strong man, the clerk became merely a departmental head.

The Junior Officer

With regard to the junior officer, the lecturer supported the policy of promotion not being limited to departments, suggesting that an officer who had thus gleaned a general knowledge of the working of the authority would make the best administrator. Appointments and conditions of service should be governed by the General Purposes Committee or a special committee. At present, he felt that appointments were too casual, thus providing avenues for councillors to secure entry into the service of the sons of their friends. Stressing the importance of permitting undergraduates to enter the service, Mr. Jennings added that junior officers should be given opportunities for acquiring similar qualifications via post-entry training. He favoured the idea of a national qualifying examination, not conducted by N.A.L.G.O. because it was undesirable that officers should conduct examinations over other officers, but perhaps by the Association of Education Committees. He thought it hardly probable that the Hadow report would recommend such a step to be taken, but a generalisation of the system of regional examination boards might be advocated.

In a later lecture Mr. Jennings discussed the adequacy or otherwise of council control and said it was unfortunate that the system of election did not produce the most capable administrators. The obvious solution was to stimulate public interest in local government.

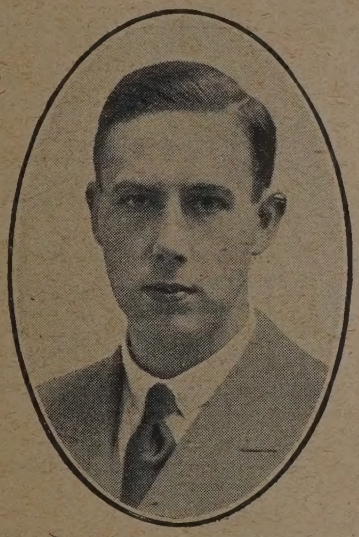
Local Government in U.S.A.

A novel "conversation" between Mr. T. Harvatt and Professor Harvey Walker proved exceedingly informative regarding local government in America. One learned of the Mayor and City Manager types of local government and the power of certain cities to frame their own Charters. In America, said the Professor, a great deal more emphasis was placed upon the budget as a work "plan" rather than from the financial standpoint. Expenditures were controlled by pre-audit. Each department of the different councils distributed popular charts, profusely illustrated, describing the work accomplished each year. An essential difference as regards the service was the absence of an age limit for entrants, this being by open competition. Psychology and aptitude tests were much used, but the departments were not interested in an educational background. They had no use for post-entry training because the qualifications were insisted upon at entry. He favoured an adequate rating system rather than promotion tests. In England, he found that a great deal of reliance was placed on professional societies for examinations and thought this was dangerous because the conditions might be made unduly difficult in order to restrict entries.

Administration Abroad

What are the lessons which can be learned from local government abroad? Studying the problem from this angle, Councillor J. P. R. Maud, M.A., Fellow and Dean of University College, found that a great deal more interest was taken in the local elections in Germany; on an average 80 per cent. of the electorate voted. "In view of this," added Cr. Maud, "we must hesitate before saying that our system of local government is better than any other." In the Belgian Congo there was a remarkable system of inter-related government, all activities being subject to a subtle control and integrated, including the railways, churches, mines, etc.

Explaining the system of local government in Germany, Dr. Leupold pointed out that it was largely dependent upon the state inasmuch as the burgomaster was both a town and state official.



Mr. T. HARVATT, B.A., Barrister-at-Law, Education Secretary of N.A.L.G.O.

In a later lecture Cr. Maud drew certain conclusions regarding possible improvements in the local government system of this country. "It seems to me," he said, "that the City Manager comes in this category. His office is the simple crystallisation of the work of different officials. He is the servant of the council and he can be appointed and dismissed by them. I think that in the City Manager we do have an object lesson. This would certainly mean a tremendous re-orientation of emphasis, but we do want our local authorities to have a single plan of development. The City Manager would make it his business to present an integrated plan of work for the forthcoming year—estimates should be simply one aspect of this plan—to a General Purposes Committee, and this should go backwards and forwards until it was shaped for presentation to the council.

The third group of lectures was given by Professor J. H. Jones, M.A., Professor of Economics and Head of the Commerce Department, University of Leeds. Professor Jones discussed the financial policy of local authorities and also the question of trade cycles.

On Friday evening, Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Health, was present at a debate on the prize-winning essays in the competition which he has instituted. Sir Arthur described the essays as being of a materially higher standard than in previous years. The writers, he said, had approached nearer to the real point of an essay, which was to get the right facts and then to apply a mental process to the evaluation of those facts. He particularly commended the work of the juniors, and congratulated Mr. W. J. Hunt, A.C.I.S., County Treasurer's Department, West Sussex, in tying with Mr. C. Kent Wright, Town Clerk, Stoke Newington, in Class I. "It has been a stern chase for some time," observed Sir Arthur. The writer of the prize essay in Class II was Mr. Dudley Childs, Borough Treasurer's Department, Torquay.

Discussing points raised in the debate on the essays, Sir Arthur said that, before condemning the present rating system, they must bring forward another system to take its place. He thought that, if they were to have a complex between the local and national exchequers, the former would come off second best. He expressed appreciation of the value of the lectures which had been given during the school, and said the discussion of such problems was of the utmost value.

Mock Council Meeting

The social events of the school included a cleverly staged mock council meeting. Under the "mayoralty" of Alderman Dr. W. Stobie, O.B.E., the "Croyde Bay" Borough Council held an extraordinary meeting, when one of the chief items of business transacted was a submission from Mr. Dingle M. Foot, M.P. for Dundee, that the work of the council should be handed over to private enterprise. A great deal of fun was derived from the debate and also from the report of the Public Health Committee when it was recommended that the water supply should be in the hands of the local authority. This immediately gave rise to the demand that another form of liquor should also be in the hands of the authority. Various programmes of community singing were arranged during the course of the school, and also a tennis tournament and a punting expedition on the river were much enjoyed.

REPRESENTATION ON THE N.E.C.

Additional Members Elected

The National Executive Council, at its meeting on July 22, reconsidered the decision which it arrived at on June 5 to prepare the necessary amendments to rules with a view to operating the extended representation for 1934-5, and decided to regard the resolution as amending rule 51 and to give immediate effect to the rule. The following now stands as section (4) of the rule:—

"(4) Minimum representation for certain districts: Each district in England and Wales with a membership of 2,500 and over shall have not less than two representatives on the National Executive Council (including representatives elected or appointed under the preceding sections of this Rule) and if two representatives have not been so elected or appointed the unsuccessful candidate with the highest number of votes shall be deemed to be elected."

The following are, therefore, deemed to be elected and become representatives on the National Executive Council for the districts named. It will be noted that the South Wales and Monmouthshire District does not acquire an additional member under the new section of the rule as there was only one candidate nominated and he was returned unopposed.

	Votes Received
North Eastern District	
Bingham, F., Chief Assistant Rating and Valuation Officer, Middlesbrough C.B.	676
East Midland District	
Day, A. B., Surveyor, Nottingham C.B.	838
South Eastern District	
Moss, J., Public Assistance Officer, Kent C.C.	509
Southern District	
Merriman, F. V., Chief Education Officer, Reading C.B.	411
South Western District	
Stead, E. J., County Surveyor, Somerset C.C.	782

SCOTTISH SUMMER SCHOOL

THE CRISIS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: PROBLEMS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

THE Scottish Summer School, which was held at St. Andrews University from June 24 to July 1—the third of these schools to be held in Scotland—was in every way a marked success. Lord Provost Buist, of Dundee, performed the opening ceremony at the customary dinner, over which Mr. Hugh Begg, F.R.C.V.S., Lanark, President of the Scottish District Committee, presided. Others present included Principal Sir James Irvine, Mr. Henderson Stewart, M.P. for East Fife: Mr. J. Chaston, chairman of the Education Committee of N.A.L.G.O.: Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary: and Mr. J. M. Mortimer, Divisional Secretary for Scotland.

The Crisis

The opening lecture was given on June 26 by Mr. D. T. Jack, M.A., Lecturer in Economics at St. Andrews University, who dealt with "The Crisis and Public Administration," and "The Crisis and Public Revenue." The crisis of 1931, he said, appeared to be bound up with the Budget problem in this country, because it was feared that the unbalanced Budget would begin a severe inflationary movement, and inflation once started tended to generate a vicious circle, since public expenditure rose with rising prices and public revenue did not increase in the same way. Different items of public expenditure had different degrees of elasticity in the sense that some were more intimately bound up with movements of prices than were others.

Mr. Jack added that it was clear that in 1931 the unsound way in which the public finances of this country had been managed helped to undermine confidence in the value of sterling both at home and abroad. But in greater measure the Budget problem was the result of the severe fall in prices which preceded it, because the fall in prices dislocated trade and diminished the yield of revenue from certain important sources of taxation. It so happened that the problem of the domestic budget coincided with the crisis of the £1, but was in many ways independent of it. The crisis of the £1 was principally the result of forces operating abroad rather than within the country itself. That particular series of crises had now passed, but they had left behind a number of difficult problems of readjustment.

Incidence of Taxation

In a subsequent lecture, Mr. Jack observed that a number of problems connected with public finance arose from the varying degrees of elasticity possessed by different forms of taxation. From the revenue point of view, elasticity arose partly in relation to price movements, and partly through changes affecting the basis of the tax. From another point of view questions of the ultimate incidence of taxation were important. In the case of Income-tax and Sur-tax, which now provided about one-half of the total income from Imperial taxation, these did not enter directly into costs of production, and hence did not directly affect prices.

These taxes exercised an indirect influence, partly through the physical effort in the capacity to save, and partly through the psychological effect in the willingness to save. If this indirect effect was substantial, the result would be apparent in a rise in interest rates above the level which would otherwise have existed.

Local rates entered directly into production costs. The anomalies in the rating system had only been partially met by the extension of central Government grants, and by derating schemes. The problem of removing the anomalies which remained was a difficult one, and no easy solution presented itself. The idea of a local Income-tax had a superficial attraction except on the side of administration, where the problem became exceedingly complex. A further difficulty arose from the low standard of competence displayed by local governing bodies.

Mr. J. W. Nisbet, M.A., LL.B., Lecturer in Economics for Accountancy, Glasgow University, discussed the questions of the legislature and the Judiciary and the Sphere of Public Administration. The flexibility of the British constitution, while it owed much to the economic, social, and political forces which stood behind and supported it, he said, was the natural expression of our empirical character. Of late the centre of gravity had been shifting. Whitehall had shown an increasing tendency to usurp the functions of Westminster. But,

LIGHT AND SHADE AT ST. ANDREWS:
A Happy Snap from the Scottish Summer School

subject to certain safeguards, the development was both legitimate and constitutionally desirable, especially in view of the great pressure on Parliamentary time, and of the necessity for a safety valve in an emergency. The dangers of legislative delegation were not inherent, but were due to haphazard growth.

Judiciary and Administration

Mr. Nisbet contended that a clear case existed for the simplification and standardisation of the terms of the regulating enactments, for the definite specification of the limits to the exercise of delegated power, for the continued Court cognisance of the validity of executive Acts, and for the full enlightenment and adequate consultation of the different interests affected. Specially important was the necessity that each House of Parliament should set up a small standing committee to consider and report on every Bill containing a proposal to confer law-making power on a minister, and on every rule and regulation made in the exercise of such power. Conceivably, indeed, Parliament might yet evolve as a series of committees whose business it would be to watch over and inquire into the process of administration and report upon desirable changes. If that should happen Parliament might well become the chief safeguard of the private citizen against bureaucratic excess.

On the subject of "The Judiciary and the Sphere of Public Administration," Mr. Nisbet said that if the fundamental characteristic of the British Constitution was the sovereignty of Parliament, the other main buttress was the rule of law, which signified judicial determination, for the most part, of the general principles of our form of government, the absence of arbitrary power, and equality before the law. Formerly in sharp contrast, but now less so, had been the Continental *droit administratif*, with its special methods, precedents, and cases.

Frustrating the Rule of Law

Mr. Nisbet added that in this country there had been a tendency for the Executive to use the sovereignty of Parliament in order to frustrate the rule of law. It had issued not mere administrative decisions, but judicial and quasi-judicial decisions as well. While the system had merits in cheapness, accessibility, freedom from technicality, and expediousness, it had its drawbacks too. In order to safeguard the rights of the subject, it was imperative that there be both a jealous maintenance of the rule of law and a vigilant observance of the principles of natural justice.

The question of the influence of new developments in public policy upon the national character was extremely important. The State had tended to assume the rôle of the *deus ex machina*, loosening all real or fancied difficulties. But there were the dangers of Government maternalism, which kept the citizen in leading strings, and Government paternalism which placed him in a straight jacket. It was of vital importance that they should beware lest they deprive the people of this country of their initiative and independence, which were the nation's most valuable assets.

Administrative Efficiency

Dr. James A. Bowie, M.A., D.Litt., Principal, Dundee School of Economics and Commerce, discussing the question of administrative efficiency, said that to secure administrative efficiency the first necessity was that the business should be planned as clearly as a team. A clear organisation chart should be drawn up so that each man knew his place in the scheme of things, his specific responsibility and authority. If that was not done an organisation was likely to develop purely along the lines of personalities: some men would be overworked, others would slack, and there would be overlapping and friction. All individual interests must be subject to the common good. All men tended to think first of their own interests, so that in business we had to reconcile two conflicting interests, both powerful, and that was one of the greatest problems of management If men forgot their common interests, or if the head of the business ceased to stimulate the team spirit both by example and precept, loyalty faded and grew dim, and men ceased to pull in the same straight line.

Selection of Staffs

In Britain too little attention was paid to the adequate selection of staffs. Any organisation which devoted careful attention to this could acquire an important competitive advantage. The manager who knew how to encourage initiative in his staff and yet preserve discipline was the man who had learned the art. The good manager must also be a good delegater. The man who left other people to do all the work was not a delegater but a slacker. In all businesses there must be unity of command; that is, a man must receive instructions about a particular task from only one source. If that rule was broken discipline was endangered and order became confusion. Put briefly, it was the duty of a manager or chief of a department to:—(1) Have a thorough knowledge of his staff: (2) eliminate the passengers: (3) set a good example: (4) re-examine periodically his organisation: (5) preserve unity of command

(*Continued on page 230, col. 2*)

WHITLEY COUNCILS CAMPAIGN

ABOUT the middle of March a request was made to District Committees to place the subject of Whitleyism on the agenda for discussion by the District Committee in order that the appeal which had then been made to the branches to undertake an informative campaign amongst their members on the subject might have the unanimous and influential support of each District Committee. At the same time the District Committees were asked to accept responsibility for the organisation of an intensive campaign in support of Whitleyism amongst the branches in their respective districts and afterwards with the local authorities.

Reports from some of the districts show that they are co-operating heartily in the campaign and no doubt others will be reporting in the near future on the progress that is being made in their districts. There is no doubt that if the members adequately discuss the merits of Whitleyism a body of support will be forthcoming which will fortify the Association in its campaign and enable it to approach confidently the local authorities and their associations, backed by a measure of support that can hardly be denied satisfaction.

Preliminary discussions concerning a proposal to establish Whitley machinery to operate for official staffs in the North Wales District have taken place and there is every prospect of the establishment of a Provincial Whitley Council with two committees, one to deal with questions affecting manual workers as at present and the other to deal with questions affecting officials.

A special meeting of the Metropolitan District Committee has been arranged for October 5 to receive statements and consider resolutions on the subject of Whitleyism. The Whitleyism Sub-Committee of the District Committee has drafted the agenda which will include statements by Mr. Hill, General Secretary, on "The National Whitley Council and why it failed," Mr. W. G. Auger on "Existing Provincial Whitley Councils and what they have accomplished," and Mr. A. A. Garrard on "Local Joint Whitley Committees in the Metropolitan Area—their successes and failures."

The following resolutions will be submitted for consideration :—

(*a*) That the Metropolitan District Committee is satisfied that "Whitley" machinery is the most suitable medium for the settlement of matters relating to the local government service.

(*b*) That branches in the Metropolitan District do approach their local councils with a view to ascertaining if the councils are in agreement with the principles of "Whitleyism," and whether they would be prepared to co-operate if the appropriate machinery were established.

All branches are specially urged to be represented at the special meeting and in the meantime Branch Executive Committees are requested to invite the views, observations, etc., of their individual members on the subject so that branch representatives attending the District Committee may be in a position at the special meeting to express the united opinion of their branches.

BOARDING SCHOOL FACILITIES

Here is some more good news for members of N.A.L.G.O. A scheme is rapidly approaching completion—subject to approval and the settling of details—whereby members of N.A.L.G.O. may obtain special terms at approved boarding schools. School terms commence during September next, and members who are desirous of taking immediate advantage of these facilities should communicate at once with Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, who will be pleased to supply information as soon as possible.

THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER

DUTIES WHICH TOUCH LIFE AT MANY POINTS

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

"PLEASE, sir, I'm minding the coffin." It was the answer of a timid, ten-year-old little girl, with fair hair and a waxen face, to the attendance officer, who called to inquire why Mary was not at school. The little guardian of the corpse sat on the doorstep—a little doorstep mother—watching the coffin, while mother was in a public-house near by, drowning her sorrows in drink.

It was only an incident in a day's experience of a public official, whose work is little known and less appreciated. His duty brings him into close touch with the most sordid side of life in a great city, among the class, fortunately growing less, who would never send their children to school without some element of compulsion. So soon as the child of such parents is five years of age, the attendance officer is on the scene to persuade recalcitrants to obey the law, and to offer the help of the school doctor or nurse in any case of defect or disability. Then follows the almost weekly visit to maintain some measure of regularity in attendance, only to meet with all sorts of plausible excuses and human frailties.

Forms of Negligence

The commoner forms of negligence are unreadiness at school times, coupled with general parental neglect and indifference. In these distressful days, lack of clothing and footwear are frequently cited; there, again, the conscientious officer is prepared to supply, in real cases of necessity, even food, clothing or footwear from such sources as are at his disposal. When all, and more than this, is done, there are still parents and guardians with so little interest in their children's education that an annual appearance at the police court, a fine or other order of the justices is necessary to keep the careless from falling into a worse condition. This is a part of the educational machine without which the work of the teachers would run less smoothly.

Perhaps the school attendance officer, more than any other public servant, is appealed to, when certain occasional duties are required to be performed in the interests of the public or for the welfare of sections of the community, where no clear claim can be made upon any other official. In this way he often performs services valuable to his locality of which nothing is ever heard or seen, and for which no payment is often made. The duties vary according to the type of town or district. Some can be cited with accuracy from a school attendance officer's notebook, and include among other services the following:

In order to establish a domestic economy centre he was asked (*gratis* of course) to canvass the district for prospective candidates. The original plan was quite voluntary, and much astuteness was required to ensure success. The scheme was eventually made compulsory, and only absentees were required to be visited. Then the Library Committee come along with a polite request to the school attendance office to compile a list of children who left school the previous year in order to interest them in a juvenile department shortly to be opened. The Higher Education Committee require a similar list every autumn to induce "leavers" to take up the preliminary course at the technical school or institute.

During Trade Depression

At times of trade upheavals and consequent distress, the school attendance officer is asked to prepare a list of necessitous families in the district, to arrange entertainments and "draws" for the supply of footwear for their offspring. He has to procure birth certificates for scores of people who frequently lose the one copy they possess, to advise them how, when and where to obtain hospital treatment, to obtain railway fares in some cases, and even take the children to hospital for negligent parents, as the interest of the child comes before anything else with an attendance officer. He must see that the local authority's by-laws regulating the employment of children in street trading are observed, and also keep an eye on the employment of children in entertainments, theatres, etc. He periodically takes a census of the children in his area under school leaving age. There is also the floating population of children to be watched, namely those living in canal boats, or tramping the country with their parents.

In "The University of Life"

Contributions from parents are collected by the school attendance officers in connection with the treatment of defective children and mentally deficient children, attendance at the clinic, including dental and optical treatment and supplies, and recently in some counties they have been detailed to collect doctor's outstanding fees in connection with the Mid-Wives Act, 1918.

Many counties are at last beginning to recognise the catholicity of the duties of these officers, and are realising that they are not only concerned with the attendance of children at schools. One authority designates them school visitors, and others child investigators, and still others child welfare inspectors.

The school attendance officer works constantly in close touch with the N.S.P.C.C. inspector, and undoubtedly lightens that official's duties by being able to give him reliable, first-hand information without further inquiry or investigation. These are matters which, strictly speaking, lie outside the attendance officer's prescribed duties, but he is considered the most accessible person, and in this way his duties are such as to touch human life at every point. He may not be possessed of a university degree, but he has been trained in a difficult school—the university of life—and because he goes the "even tenor of his way," and only appears to public gaze in an occasional police court proceeding, there are those who think he can be got rid of. Those who best know how to appreciate his work and service will agree that, among local government officers, the attendance officer is not the most unworthy.

NALGO MEMBER AS AUTHOR

MURDER ABROAD. By William C. Harvey (Elden Press, 66 Curzon Street, London, W.1.). Price, 7s. 6d. net.

Who killed Mortimer Maybridge, the rich retired stockbroker, in the study of his country house? Why had the dead man, almost on the very eve of his death, converted the whole of his fortune into diamonds, now nowhere to be found? Suspicion is the very keynote of Mr. Harvey's intricate and complex story: and there are enough suspicious characters in the house alone to keep the reader guessing hard. Was it his son, Arnold, with more than a trace of madness in his composition? Was it his secretary, Evan Williams, a man of uncontrollable passions? Barton, the ex-convict butler? . . . But it is fairly safe to say that few readers will detect the criminal before the author lets the secret out.

Now for another secret. Plain William C. Harvey hides the identity of Southgate's popular medical officer of health, well-known in the Metropolitan district as a brilliant bridge-player and as a very keen member of N.A.L.G.O. He has been assisted in this work by Mr. G. E. Martin, the honorary secretary of the branch, who sketched the diagram of Wynnford House—the place of gory events.

To congratulate Dr. Harvey upon giving us a feast of thrills such as we have not had before is almost to underestimate what is due to him, but this I do hope—that it will not be long before another such novel is given to us.—D. J. P.

PROVIDENT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

SURVEY OF THE PROGRESS LAST YEAR: STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION

ON June 2 there took place the annual meeting of Nalgo Provident Society at the Town Hall, Folkestone, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Whinnerah.

With regard to convalescent homes benefit, a resolution was passed at the conference last year that "the Committee of Management be recommended to consider the question of reducing the scale of charges for members requiring an extended period of convalescence to £2 2s. per week." The committee reported that it had been decided to take no action. The period of free residence at a convalescent home, it was pointed out, does not exceed two weeks in any one year, and in respect of residence at "Nalgo House," Matlock, the appropriate charges are paid to the Nalgo Approved Society out of the common sick fund. If a member of Nalgo Provident Society, who required an extended period of residence, was not a member of the Nalgo Benevolent and Orphan Fund, he was called upon to pay for such an extended period at the rate of £2 12s. 6d. per week, which was the amount charged for residence at Nalgo House in the case of any member of the N.A.L.G.O. who was not a member of Nalgo Provident Society, Nalgo Approved Society, or Nalgo Benevolent and Orphan Fund. As the charge of £2 2s. per week did not cover the actual cost of residence, the Nalgo Benevolent and Orphan Fund makes a lump sum grant of £200 per annum to the Nalgo Approved Society, in addition to paying the usual charges, and for the same reason, Nalgo Provident Society decided in 1931 to make a lump sum grant of £100 per annum to Nalgo Approved Society. If members were allowed the extra period at the reduced rate, this would mean that Nalgo Provident Society would have to contribute the balance, which it could not afford to do.

On the proposition of MR. BRODIE, it was decided that the resolution should be remitted to the committee for consideration, provided funds are available to meet the expense.

Amalgamation Question

It was reported that negotiations had taken place between the National Public Assistance and Local Government Officers' Provident Association, and the Nalgo Provident Society with a view to amalgamation, and a joint meeting of representatives of the two societies was held at Birmingham on August 25, 1932. The present position was that the National Public Assistance and Local Government Officers' Provident Association was not prepared to proceed further with the negotiations in the absence of an actuarial valuation of the sickness section of the Nalgo Provident Society. It had been pointed out that it was not necessary to have the sickness section of the society valued to see whether or not it was solvent. It must be solvent, otherwise they would not be able each year to distribute among the members approximately 9d. out of every 1s. contributed to the common sick fund. The whole scheme was automatic in its working, and that was why they made application to the Registrar to be exempted from the quinquennial valuation as their actuary agreed that there was really no point in issuing a report. The committee decided to take no further action at present.

MR. WHINNERAH said it was only fair to mention that the proposed amalgamation had been initiated by their own society.

Local Correspondents' Fees

With regard to local correspondents' fees, it was reported that this matter had been considered by the committee. The existing scale of fees was 2s. for obtaining a new member and 1s. per member per annum for keeping the accounts. From January 1, 1933, the fees for keeping the accounts were increased to 1s. 6d. per member per annum. This had been made possible by the surplus of the Management Fund for 1932. These fees were now paid direct to the branches, which were responsible for the disbursement of honoraria.

MR. EDWARDS, Cambridge, asked that this should be referred back and attention called to the surplus of about £600. Had the committee considered the question of reducing the management fees from 3s. to 2s.? He wished the paragraph referred back in order that this should be considered. He felt that any surplus should go back to the members.

Departmental Collectors

MR. BRODIE said that in Glasgow the local collector remitted a portion of the fees to each collector in the various departments. The membership in Glasgow had increased by leaps and bounds. As a matter of fact this increase was already operating, and he could not see how the mover was in order. He proposed that the item be approved.

MR. WHINNERAH: Yes, it has been put into operation.

MR. LLOYD (hon. treasurer): We might reduce the management surplus, but I want this meeting to realise that it took this provident society eight years before it could pay its way. It is rather early, just as soon as we find a £600 surplus, to dissipate that sum immediately. It might be considered at a later date.

MR. W. W. ARMITAGE (Sheffield) suggested that it was only a matter of common justice that this increased fee should be paid to the local correspondents. The desire had been expressed by the society that the remuneration paid to correspondents should be increased, but it had been explained, year after year, that the finances of the society would not permit of this. Immediately they found, as the hon. treasurer had said, a small surplus on the fund, the committee considered it right and proper that the local correspondent should have his due. Their friend from Glasgow had said that the local correspondent remitted some of the money to those assisting him in the several departments coming under the control of the Glasgow authority. The same thing obtained in Sheffield. There were a number of departments outside the town hall, and the local correspondent found it impossible to do the whole of the work, and some of the money received was remitted to those who did the work for him in the several departments. He suggested that this was a very proper method, and that the amount paid was not unduly large.

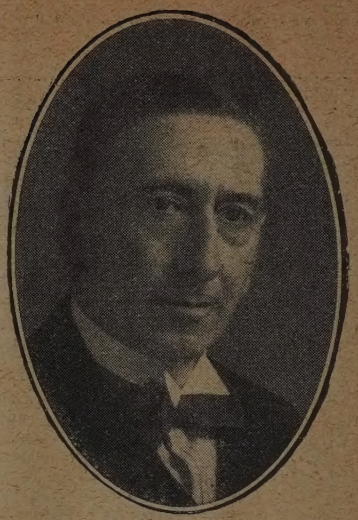
The motion that this part of the report be approved and adopted was carried.

MR. BROMLEY (Wigan) asked whether the age limit of 50 could not be extended to 55, as there was a tremendous number of clerks a little over 50.

MR. WHINNERAH pointed out that whatever age limit was fixed, some people would be bound to be affected.

Sickness Benefit Claims Increased

It was reported that during the past year there was a very substantial increase in the number of sickness benefit claims, due mainly to the influenza epidemic experienced during the months of February and March. As a result of this increased sickness, there had been a heavy drain on the Society's funds for sickness benefit, and although over 1,300 new enrolments had been effected during 1932, this had been insufficient to counteract this effect and maintain the transfer of surplus funds at the high level of 9d. for every 1/- contributed to the common sick fund. The committee had therefore decided to allocate 8½d. for each 1/-



Mr. W. H. Whinnerah, Chairman of the Committee of Management of the Nalgo Provident Society

contributed and carry forward a balance of £665 4s. 10d. The total number of members declaring on the funds during the year was 1,739, involving the large sum of £8,117 9s. 8d. being paid for sickness benefit which was 27.7 per cent. above the 1931 figure.

It was further reported that the members' deposit accounts were steadily growing, a sum of £13,470 8s. 1d. being deposited during the past year as compared with £12,178 4s. 4d. for 1931, and applications for withdrawals amounting to £10,076 15s. were paid as against £8,806 2s. 7d. during the previous year. Compound interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum had been credited to the members' accounts which amounted to £749 13s. 10d., and the total sum which stood to the credit of the members' accounts was £30,338 4s. 1d. In cases where members had been incapacitated and exhausted their "Rest" funds, which provided the necessary proportion of sick pay, £191 3s. 5d. had been used from the deposit account to enable them to continue to draw sickness benefit. Every member who had not yet sufficient in his "Rest" fund to provide for a long illness should take advantage of this section—this especially applied to new members.

Members' "Rest" Fund

The members' own "Rest" fund was steadily increasing. The total amount now standing to their credit was £63,543 4s. 8d. and during the past year £7,469 7s. 9d. was withdrawn, of which £2,363 19s. 5d. represented their proportion of sickness benefit. The amount withdrawn from this fund during 1932 showed an increase over the preceding year of £1,387 12s. 5d. The accumulated funds in the Death Benefit Fund now amounted to £3,241 3s. 1d.

Altogether, exceedingly good progress had been made during the past year. The total number of new enrolments under the sickness and death benefit sections was 1,312, which was slightly lower compared with the previous year, and after taking into account the resignations which total 305, the actual membership at December 31, 1932, was 11,148. Since the inception of the society 12 years ago, the average increase in membership had been approximately 1,000 per annum.

The committee had again considered the question of continuing to accept the certificate of a Chief Officer in lieu of a medical report in respect of each new entrant under forty years of age, and of paying the doctor's fees in respect of new applicants over that age, and they had decided to continue the practice until December 31, 1933.

MR. H. R. JONES (Wolverhampton) asked whether, having regard to the fact that the

mount transferred to "Rest" fund was of dwindling nature, some other guarantee part from the Chief Officer's certificate should ot be demanded. He moved that the practice hould entirely cease.

MR. WHINNERAH replied that the experience f the committee was such that they could not dvise this motion to be accepted. The system ad worked very well up to now.

MR. ARMITAGE said the matter had come nder review every year, and if, in years past, t had been deemed advisable that the practice f accepting chief officers' signatures should ease, the committee would have abolished it. He said that their experience showed this not o be a fact. He considered that the contribution o the Rest Fund would not have been of a liminishing nature but for the recent epidemic f influenza. If they could have had a normal ear and been given an influx of younger nembers, they would have been able to carry ut their original promises.

MR. WHINNERAH: Many of the members ave a dislike for medical examination.

Mr. Jones's motion was lost.

The report showed that the society's interest or 1932 was £4,724, compared with £5,258 for he previous year, a decrease which was due o the reduction in the amount of principal utstanding in respect of loans on mortgage nd the transfer of certain bonds to the general unds.

The Financial Statement

MR. LLOYD, presenting the financial statement, said that on the common fund there was surplus of £141. Much had been said about his. He had heard a lot of members saying hat they thought that the committee should ot take 3½d. out of every shilling for sickness. As a matter of fact they might have made the mount 8¾d. with a 3¼d. charge. But he himself considered that the common fund should e built up and have a little in hand in case f emergency. One member had contended hat he was entitled to his "rest" money, and hat if he left the society he wanted the whole f it back. Mr. Lloyd pointed out that a Life Assurance Society would not give the premiums ack, and he asked why he should expect nything back at all. Members were lucky o get 8½d. back because they were not entitled o that money from the rest fund. It was as a esult of so many years' working of the Provident Society that they had the surplus. If they had a cholera epidemic, such as occurred in Russia, and the sickness cost more than a shilling, where would the money come from? It must be charged to the "Rest." This shilling was itself an empirical figure, and he considered it a reasonable one. The fact that it was more han they expected to spend did not rule out he possibility of its being made higher. They had been very lucky, indeed, during the twelve years of the Provident Society's working, that hey had been able to give so much as 3½d. back to members and pay 8½d. or more over o the rest fund. There was a balance on the rest fund of £8,593 and £3,952 on the deposit fund.

Death Benefit Fund

The death benefit fund was exceptionally strong, although only a small balance of £551 was shown. On the management fund the members had now £1,123 standing to their credit. He thought they should be proud of this, and he reminded them that the committee had not murmured when the fund had been overdrawn during the eight years of the society's existence. Although the society had been running for twelve years, this was the second year that they had made any appreciable contribution to the management fund. The balance of £665 shown on the common sick fund represented well over a farthing per member. The various assets of the society totalled £101,417. They had topped the £100,000 mark for the first time. He was very pleased with their accounts.

On the motion of MR. BRODIE (Glasgow) the accounts were adopted.

MR. WHINNERAH expressed the society's indebtedness to the hon. treasurer for all he had done in connection with the society's accounts. He extended to him their very grateful thanks.

The reappointment of Messrs. Jackson, Pixley & Co., as auditors, was approved.

Mr. T. Nolan (Leeds), Mr. S. H. Brodie (Glasgow), and Mr. L. H. Taylor (Salford) were elected as the Society's representatives on the Committee of Management.

Management Committee Meeting

At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Provident Society, held on July 8, Mr. W. H. Whinnerah was appointed chairman, and Mr. J. T. Baker, vice-chairman for the year 1933-34.

The following paragraph of the annual report had been referred back by the Annual General Meeting to the Committee of Management for further consideration:

> Convalescent Homes Benefit: That the Committee of Management be recommended to consider the question of reducing the scale of charges for members requiring an extended period of convalescence to £2 2s. per week.

It was decided to take no action in connection with this suggestion for the reason that if members were allowed the extended period at the reduced rate of £2 2s. per week, it would tend to restrict membership of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and it is the policy of the Society not to discourage membership of the other activities of N.A.L.G.O.; and it is also the opinion of the Committee that the balance of 10s. 6d. per week per member should not be contributed out of the funds of the Society.

Proposed Alterations of Rules

The Annual General Meeting also referred the following proposed alterations of the Rules to the Committee for consideration and report:

> Rule 13—Sick Pay. Delete the word "week" in line two of Section 11, and substitute the word "fortnight."

It was resolved that no alteration be made in respect of Rule 13, Section 11, as suggested, as weekly medical certificates are not always insisted upon, and the Committee is prepared to accept certified copies of medical certificates submitted on behalf of the members.

> Rule 26—Meetings. "That having regard to the continued growth of the Society, the Management Committee be instructed to consider the advisability of amending Rule 26, so as to allow voting by proxy."

After a long discussion on the advantages and disadvantages involved in voting by proxy it was agreed that the present method of voting at annual general meetings of the Society be retained.

> Arrears. The chairman promised that consideration would be given by the Committee of Management to the question of the provision contained in Rule 12 whereby "all arrears under Table 1 due on December 15 shall be deducted from the member's 'Rest,' together with an extra fine of 1s."
>
> At the Annual General Meeting, Mr. E. Gill (Lanarkshire Branch) suggested that December 31 should be substituted for December 15, as the members of the Scottish Branches do not receive their salaries until the latter date, and, therefore, it is not possible to collect the contributions of the members and forward a return and remittance by December 15.

It was pointed out that if a later date is substituted for December 15, it would seriously delay the balance of accounts, and it was, therefore, agreed that no alteration be made to Rule 12.

Mr. D. J. Parry (Honorary Solicitor for Wales) being eligible, was elected to honorary membership of the Provident Society for the period of his membership of the N.E.C.

THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF "LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE" WILL CONTAIN A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd JULY.

BRIDGE FORUM

By NEVILLE HOBSON.

Competition:

THERE were only about half the number of Competitors for the Contract Bridge Competition in June, as compared with the two Auction Tests which were carried through last year.

Letters I have received from various parts of the country during the past few months confirm that there are still large numbers of local government devotees of Bridge who prefer Contract, and there is little doubt that the latter will steadily replace Auction.

Bidding Principles:

I propose to summarise the main principles of Bidding, which were illustrated by the first six questions, and the following general rules should be assimilated by those who are taking up the more advanced form of Bridge.

(1) The holding of 2½ Honour Tricks and a Biddable Suit justifies an initial Bid.

(2) A Biddable Suit demands the holding in such suit of: (*a*) 1½ H.T. in the case of 4 Cards; or (*b*) ½ H.T. with 5 Cards; or (*c*) No Honour Tricks with 6 cards.

(3) If 2 Biddable Suits are held, one of which contains 4 cards and the other 5, the Longer suit should be bid first in all cases.

(4) If, however, the 2 Biddable Suits are each of 5 cards (or one is a 5 card and the other a 6 card suit), the Higher Ranking suit should be bid first, even though weaker in Honour strength.

(5) An initial Bid of one's partner can generally be increased on 1½ to 2 Supporting Tricks; so that, if 3 Supporting Tricks are held, the raise should be to 3.

(6) Supporting Tricks are not synonymous with Honour Tricks, as the former consist of Trick (as distinct from High Card) values in the Trump suit, i.e., one extra trick, if holding a Singleton; one for a Trump over the minimum required support; half a trick for a Doubleton.

(7) Unless adequate Trump Support is held, an alternative Biddable Suit should be declared, if the hand contains 1½ H.T.

(8) Normal Trump support is Q, x, x, or x, x, x, x.

Play of the Hand:

I propose to deal with this general matter more fully in another article, as the answers to Question No. 7 were somewhat disappointing.

It is much more serious in Contract than at Auction to lose Tricks through faulty Attack or Defence.

Competition:

In this connection, I would welcome the opinion of readers of this column as to the advantage of a short Test of 6 or 8 questions on the Play of the Cards alone.

Such a Competition might precede a later one on Contract problems, as it is of direct interest to players of both codes, and the importance of correct play is not realised as fully as it should be.

Prize Winners:

I have had the pleasure of conveying my congratulations, and those of the Editor, to the Prize Winners, and wish to record appreciation of the way in which the Competitors complied with the Conditions as regards the form in which the answers were to be submitted.

I was pleased that one of the Prize Winners was an enthusiast from the fairer and less stern sex: and I cannot think of a more congenial note on which to conclude this article.

Porthcawl Branch, as a result of the dramatic performance, "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney," rendered by a local society, has handed the sum of £14 to the Benevolent & Orphan Fund of the Association.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

To the Editor,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—May I urge the necessity for an extension of the time of the Annual Conference? In the days when we had only a membership of 18,000, two days were deemed sufficient to consider annually the Association's affairs; now that we have a membership of 70,000 the same time is given. There is not the slightest doubt that many decisions are made which, if more time were given for consideration, would take the opposite course. To take an illustration, on the question of the nomination of Hon. Officers, I feel sure that only the necessity for rushing business prevented a discussion which might have reversed the decision.

I suggest that another day is absolutely necessary if calm and judicial decisions are to be given on matters coming before conference. My Branch will have under consideration in the near future the question of again submitting a notice of motion at the Scarborough Conference, and in the meantime I shall be glad to receive the opinions of other Branches on this question, which is one that must be faced seriously within the next few months.

Yours, etc.,
H. RUSSELL.
Hon. Secretary, Stockport Branch.

* * *

TEMPORARY OFFICERS

To the Editor,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—With regard to the letter by Mr. L. J. Barnes re "Temporary Officials," I wholeheartedly concur with his remarks and think it quite time the N.A.L.G.O. became instrumental in reducing this kind of employment to a minimum. May I cite a case of temporary officials in one of the most progressive boroughs in the country, which I think will prove the grave injustice to these unfortunate individuals?

The constitution of the surveyor's technical staff in this particular borough eleven years ago was as follows: 18 assistants (11 temporary, 7 permanent). The present staff comprises 15 assistants (9 temporary, 6 permanent). You will observe a slight decrease in the numerical strength of the staff due to local government economy stunt, but a fair average could be taken on the first figures over 11 or 12 years, which means a permanent staff of 7 compared with a temporary staff of 11.

This, I think, is a good example of the unfairness attached to temporary service. It is only within the last month or two that the local authority awoke to the grave injustice meted out to the 11 temporary assistants and offered to place them on the list of superannuation officials, *although not on the permanent staff.*

The local authority have been compelled to do this through outside pressure being brought to bear on individual cases of hardship, for in only three cases have the salaries of the temporary officials been increased in the course of 11 years, and in one case a very conscientious temporary official, having given 10 years' service and saved the corporation thousands of pounds in fees, is now too old to be placed under the superannuation scheme, whereas, had his appointment been made permanent 10 years ago, he would have been accepted and very soon been in receipt of a pension. Even with the remainder of the staff who have been accepted I understand that their previous service will not even count as non-contributory. Furthermore, none of the assistants have been graded and given established posts.

Yours, etc.,
SETH STEPHENS.

* * *

AN ECONOMIC ISSUE

To the Editor,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE,

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. McDevitt, of Clydebank, is quite correct. The Dundee letter raised the issue of private *versus* communal enterprise. But why create prejudice by pretending that that is simply a political issue? It is an economic issue. It has been shown again and again that *direct labour*, under local authorities, when efficiently supervised, is superior to production by private enterprise. Bradford housing, under the guidance of our late president, Mr. Fred Marsden, was among the first of the schemes in Britain to prove this conclusively.

The great issue before us to-day is the problem of *central control* of the production of wealth, its social distribution, and the simplification of the mechanism of exchange. The present system, which is a historical evolution in the life of men and nations, *has been* useful and beneficial to the race, but, like the human appendix, it is now a menace to the functioning of the organism, a grave danger to the body politic, and should be removed as speedily and as painlessly as possible. Wage and salary cuts are symptoms of the disease and arise from the obsolete methods of distributing our national income. Our national wealth is socially produced, but the distribution is anti-social.

Production may be "*too efficient*" relatively, but world production has fallen 40 per cent. since 1929, and that, despite the fact of Russia's Five-Years' Plan putting her in the second place as an industrial nation of the world. Commenting on this, the *Westminster Bank Review* for May states: "Most striking and probably also most significant of all is apparently the success with which the Soviet Russian Republics have 'insulated' themselves from the creeping paralysis of world trade and, in accordance with the policy of industrial revolution embodied in the Five-Years' Plan, claim to have nearly doubled Russia's industrial output within that period."

Despite the facts *re* Russia, she is the most hated nation in the world, because her rulers expose the fallacy of the economics of private enterprise, and amid the nations of the world she is made the butt of all the private interests. Exactly the same process goes on in the minds of the "Economaniacs" *re* public services amid private enterprises.

On page 160 of the June LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, Allen Hutt's book, *The Condition of the Working Class in Britain*, is reviewed. That book is an appalling indictment against our Christian ethics and our economic fallacies. The author offers the solution of our problems. *The logic of some public service is more public service.* And since the World Economic Conference is an assembly of international politicians endeavouring to clear up the mess created by private enterprise, I hope we have seen the last of literary sneers at politicians.

It is because of these things I suggested our N.C.I. students should be made to understand the vast difference between the economics of public and private enterprise.

Yours, etc.,
JOHN M. SCOTT.
32 Elm Street, Dundee, Angus.

* * *

SUPERANNUATION BILL

To the Editor,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—I gather from the July issue of *Local Government Service* that the Superannuation (Temporary Provisions) Bill was first introduced by Sir Henry Jackson as a "Private Members' Bill." I also gather that this Bill will only beneficially affect a very small proportion of members, the remainder being adversely affected, financially.

If my conclusions are correct, one wonders why this Bill was introduced in preference to one dealing with "the larger and *much more important* question of superannuation for officers of *all* local authorities." (The words in quotation marks are taken from the last paragraph of the Legal Secretary's article on page 186.)

(*Continued on page 230, col. 3*)

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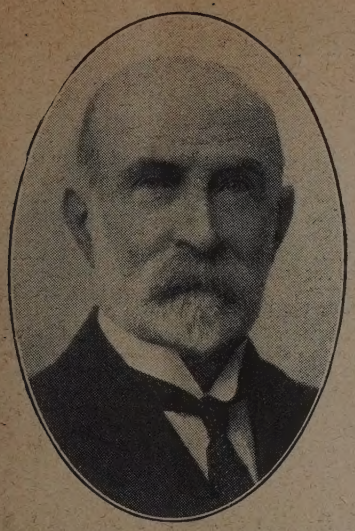
PROGRESS OF LOGOMIA

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING—"LIFE" DEPARTMENT BUSINESS NEARLY DOUBLED—MR. J. J. SIMPSON'S REVIEW.



Mr. J. J. Simpson, Chairman of the Board of Management of Logomia

IN his report at the annual meeting of Logomia at Folkestone on June 3, Mr. J. J. Simpson, the chairman, said the business embraced a variety of forms of insurance, and it was most satisfactory to be able to present a report which showed that every type of insurance work had advanced during the past year. Taking the total premium income first, it would be seen that, whereas in December, 1931, the total for the year was £17,624, the amount for the present year was £28,647, an increase of £11,023, or a 63 per cent. advance on the 1931 premium income. Motor insurance was not included. They acted as agents for motor insurance business, the underwriters undertaking all responsibility. During 1932, the commission which came to Logomia for the introduction of this type of business amounted to £392, compared with £257 in the previous year, an increase of 52 per cent. In 1932, 1,009 applications for motor policies were dealt with, the total number of motor policies up to now being 3,041.

Fidelity Business Increases

Turning to the fidelity business, for which the Association was originally established forty years ago, Mr. Simpson said it was satisfactory to be able to record a slight increase in the premium income this year, namely an advance from £5,938 to £6,267. Of course, the character of fidelity business had considerably changed in recent years. They were able to transfer a profit of £1,272 from this branch of their work to the profit and loss account, and they would continue to maintain the fidelity business, as it was for that they had been originally established. It was exceedingly satisfactory to be able to show that the business in the "life" department had very nearly doubled during the past year. Only two short of 800 new policies had been issued in 1932, an average of 66 new policies each month. In the first four months of 1933 there had been a still further increase in this type of business, the average number of policies issued in each of the four months being 91. The total premium income from life business in 1931 was £11,224, which increased in 1932 to £21,798 by a sum of £10,574 which was really an increase of 94 per cent. As security for the policy holders the life fund had now increased by no less than £15,250 and stood in the balance sheet at £72,892.

When they commenced life assurance business it was announced that all profits from that particular department should remain in the life fund. There was no transfer of profits from that department to the profit and loss account. They were offering facilities for all types of life and endowment assurance, and among the new features which had been introduced were the family income policy and "hedge your mortgage" policy, which were much favoured. With regard to life business in particular, they would not fail to keep well to the fore in providing for N.A.L.G.O. insurers every possible benefit that could be offered. The report stated that 2,418 policies had been issued up to December 31 last for £407,795, and to show the increase that had already taken place, Mr. Simpson announced that the figures now were 2,749 policies and £550,405.

The next branch of their work came under the heading of employers' liability and fire business which came under the householders' comprehensive policies. The increased income in this case might seem small, but it really represented a very large amount of business. There were 1,139 new policies issued in 1932 as compared with 772 in 1931. In the first four months of the present year 438 new policies had been issued as compared with 316 during the corresponding period of 1932. The total premiums, which were rather lower than offered by any other office, were £582 for 1932. A satisfactory feature was that the sum paid in respect of claims, covering burglary, employers' liability, and fire, only amounted to £85, which was less than 15 per cent. of the premium income. After providing 40 per cent., which was the usual amount provided by companies to cover unexpired risks, they would find that the total funds on these two heads had increased from £2,974 to £3,418.

New Business in 1932

Summarising the new business for 1932, the increase in the sums assured by life and endowment policies was £199,980, and fire and householders' comprehensive policies £572,858, a grand total of £772,838 of new business in 1932. After providing for administration expenses, unexpired risks, and crediting the income from investments, there was a net surplus of £3,455 on the year's business. They were suggesting that the reserve fund should remain practically intact. It would stand at £32,655, which was a substantial proportion of the total funds of £165,664—namely, the reserves were 20 per cent. of the total funds, or 70 per cent. of the paid-up capital.

Perhaps the most important item in the report—at least to the insured—was the total funds. In 1932, the total funds had increased by £19,808, the figure shown in the report being £165,664. He pointed out that they might very properly have added some £10,929 to that figure, because in the balance-sheet which was being presented they had retained as the value of the investments in December, 1932, the figure which was the actual value in December, 1931. There was a note showing that the present value of the investments was £171,589. This meant that, instead of their presenting a balance sheet showing total funds of £165,664, they might more properly have recorded £176,593 as representing the actual value of the funds, but they were content to record the lower figure so as to be on the safe side in view of any fluctuations in the value of these investments in the near future.

The Surplus Profit

The total funds compared with a share liability of £47,737 only, which would inspire confidence that the board was carefully serving the interests of the insured, and that, with increasing responsibility, the Association's funds increased in reasonable proportion. To show that they were working in cordial harmony with the other activities of N.A.L.G.O., it would be seen that in 1931 the loans on mortgage amounted to £23,747 and at the end of 1932 these advances on mortgage, practically all of which were through the agency of N.A.L.G.O., had increased by £20,000 to £44,223. In addition, they had been able to place £20,000 at the disposal of the N.A.L.G.O. Building Society. The surplus profit on the past three years' transactions was £6,946. From the very earliest years of the Association this had been distributed in the form of bonus addition to shares, and this practice was again being recommended. It should be remembered that all those, who from the very early years of the Association had helped with capital to give a sense of security and stability to the organisation, were being recognised by these bonuses. In doing so they were also retaining the funds as part of the increased capital of the Association.

Tribute to Board and Officers

Mr. Simpson added that he wished to pay a tribute to the work of his colleagues on the Board, everyone of whom had done his best to carry out the traditions associated with N.A.L.G.O. He wished to thank as earnestly and sincerely as possible their excellent secretary, Mr. Hill, and the general manager, Mr. John Simonds, for the splendid work they had done during the difficult period of last year, which represented the first complete year during which they had conducted their business as an integral part of the manifold interests of N.A.L.G.O. It was right for him to say that the change-over from what was an independent association to one so closely and completely one of N.A.L.G.O.'s activities had been effected with remarkable smoothness and efficiency. Ungrudging assistance had been rendered by the staffs of the old and new organisations, and all had had the common object of preserving the interests of those already associated with the business and also those to be admitted. Their warmest thanks were also extended to the three hon. medical officers who gratuitously examined every applicant for life or endowment policies. The business was growing at such a rate that the time must come in the near future when such generous services could not be continued.

MR. ELVEN (Norwich) asked what was the approximate cost of the bonus.

MR. SIMONDS: Roughly, £6,600.

MR. ELVEN asked the hon. treasurer whether he was satisfied that virtually the whole of the accumulated surplus should be so used.

MR. LLOYD: Yes.

Motor Insurance

An Aberdare member said he wished to congratulate Logomia on the motor insurance which he considered the finest in existence.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the recommendation with regard to the bonus was approved.

MR. A. WEBB (Brighton) proposed the re-election to the board of Mr. G. W. Coster and Mr. S. Lord, the retiring members. He said they all knew the work of Mr. Lord in the parent association, and as regards Mr. Coster, he had been honoured by being elected a vice-president.

MR. COSTER said he had been a member of the Board for some years, and it was gratifying that he should be re-elected unanimously.

MR. LORD, thanking the meeting for his re-election, said he had watched the progress of Logomia with great interest. It was jumping ahead. They had a wider field to-day, with policies to suit every purse, and they could not fail to be successful.

The auditors were re-elected.

MR. SHEE (Kent) expressed thanks to the board of management for their excellent report, and moved a vote of thanks to the board and also to the staff for their excellent work.

MR. E. P. EVEREST (Atcham), seconded.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

MR. SIMPSON returned thanks on behalf of the board. Some of them, he said, had been engaged in the work for a long period, although he believed himself to be the only one left who had been at the first meeting in 1889. He had had the honour of being the chairman for 39 years.

NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY

SPLENDID PROGRESS REPORTED AT THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING

MR. W. G. AUGER presided at the first general meeting of the Nalgo Building Society, which was held at the Town Hall, Folkestone, on June 2. "This is the first meeting of Mr. Lloyd's new 'baby,'" he said, "and the report you will consider this evening is one that takes us from August to December 31, 1932. Immediately this society was launched it was a success, and I think it will be a standing memorial to our honorary treasurer, whose initiative and skill started the scheme." Mr. Auger did not think any member of the National Executive Council could have dealt with the scheme in such an able manner as Mr. Lloyd had done at the last conference, but in his wildest dreams Mr. Lloyd could not have anticipated the success which it would be. While other societies were overloaded with capital and had few borrowers, N.A.L.G.O. had plenty of borrowers and were in a position to receive investments on a safe and secure basis.

This scheme gave the young member of N.A.L.G.O. a chance to have a fair start in life, and he wished such a society had existed in his young days so that he need not have paid rent for the number of years that he had done. A sub-committee of the society dealt with mortgage applications once a fortnight when, on an average, £20,000 of mortgages were dealt with, taken out by the young members who were making a start in life, thus giving them the opportunity to have their own roofs over their heads. "Next year when you have your meeting we shall be able to show you what tremendous strides we are making," he added.

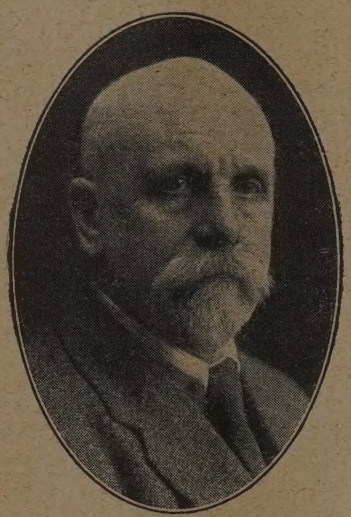
Financial Statement

In presenting the financial statement, Mr. W. E. Lloyd (Hampstead), the honorary treasurer, observed that the society had started on his birthday—August 14—and after four and a half months' working of an institution such as theirs it was quite obvious that they could not look for large profits. Before they could commence at all they had to pay the Registrar's fee, and there were other initial expenses. Perhaps the biggest setback at the start was the fact that money rolled into the society in phenomenal sums. He had thought that, having regard to the fact that the building society scheme was adopted by only a small majority on a card vote at the Weston-super-Mare conference, a great deal of support could not be expected. "Referring to the accounts we find that the paid-up shares amounted to £75,940," he said. "The deposits, you will see, amounted to £30,892, and we could not get this money placed out to advantage sufficiently quickly. We accepted the mortgages and approved the advances, but the lawyers could not deal with the mortgage securities so promptly as we had hoped, and the result was that we had as much as £39,000 in the bank. I had some sleepless nights over it. We could not afford to have that sum in the bank at one per cent. interest and have to pay the shareholders four per cent. plus tax at a compounded rate of 2s. in the £. We appointed another firm of solicitors, and even they could not cope with the work. Then we appointed our own staff.

Over £330,000 Mortgages Approved

"There was some delay, and it was not until March 31 that our solicitor at Abingdon Street was appointed. It was not surprising that at December 31 we were £514 on the wrong side of the ledger. I do not want to live in the past, however, but to tell the members of this society that what I predicted at the last conference is to-day an accomplished fact. Although the balance sheet shows a deficiency, I can inform you that, not only has that deficiency been wiped out, but we have to-day—nine months after the commencement of operations—an appreciable surplus. (Hear! hear!) Up to May 18, when the last balance was struck, we had approved mortgages amounting to £331,747. (Applause.) Up to that day we had received £212,000 odd. We have approved mortgages in advance so that we shall not have money lying idle in the bank on which we are paying four or three and a half per cent."

The year, Mr. Lloyd added, had not been without difficulty. There had also been the embarrassment of the money rolling out, which brought the bankers complaining about their overdraft. During the month of May they had approved mortgages to the extent of £60,000 which was at the rate of £700,000 a year. He intended to ask the conference to invest all their surplus funds in the building society, for there was no better investment. The Government were starting another issue of war savings



Mr. W. G. Auger, Chairman of the Committee of Management of the Nalgo Building Society

certificates the interest on which would be little over three per cent. free of tax, whereas they were willing to pay four per cent. "I am asking you to pay into the Nalgo Building Society all the spare money you have," he appealed. He added that he did not wish to labour last year's accounts because they covered a short period when the society was feeling its way. Really, he was surprised to discover that they had managed to carry through with such a paltry deficiency. He could say that there would be a substantial balance when the accounts are made up at the close of the current year.

The question was raised by a member with regard to a loan of £20,000 from Logomia. Was this free of interest?

Mr. Lloyd replied that when the Provident Society had the life fund in its hands, the management committee decided to invest the surplus funds largely in mortgages. Logomia then took over the life fund on amalgamation with the National Poor Law Officers' Association. The Provident Society paid over £35,000 to Logomia—the amount in the life fund at that date—and Logomia, of whose Board he was a member, said they wanted mortgages to that extent. He had found himself in hot water on this matter because he told Logomia that they would not have mortgages because a building society had been formed to deal with these. They were determined to have mortgages, and he pointed out that these could only be of a trustee nature. What would they do if a man applied for £600 on a £900 house and later wanted £50 for repairs, which would take them over the two-thirds which they could grant? He asked them to let the building society do all the mortgage work, and suggested that they should invest their money in the society at four per cent. The question of the Logomia loan was still in the offing, and he asked them to be generous enough to leave it in his hands. The matter of income tax was not yet settled.

Widening the Net

Mr. Routly, Borough Treasurer of Folkestone, congratulated Mr. Lloyd on the establishment of a society which, he said, was quite obviously going to meet a widespread need. He contended that there was no other investment which combined safety with a good rate of interest. He noted that the rules provided for the investments to be confined to officials or their wives, and he suggested that they might widen the net a little in view of the fact that they were embarrassed by borrowers. There were similar societies where brothers and sisters or the wife's brothers and sisters were included. As a matter of information, how did they satisfy themselves that the applications for mortgages from all parts of the country were safe?

Mr. Auger said the age and salary of the applicant were taken into consideration. The premises were surveyed by a qualified local surveyor.

The adoption of the report and balance sheet was moved by Mr. L. S. P. Walpole, Bethnal Green.

Mr. J. T. Baker (Committee of Management) said he had been astounded at the pains which their honorary treasurer had taken with every branch of the work. The members would realise from what had been said the enormous amount of personal anxiety which Mr. Lloyd must have experienced as a result of the financial position. No stone had been left unturned in making sure that things would go properly.

Mr. Lloyd said he wished to see the Nalgo Building Society a huge success, and that it should become the finest institution which N.A.L.G.O. had ever attempted. (Applause.)

Mortgage Repayment Period

Mr. L. M. Crow, (Leeds) stated that he had been asked by a prospective member to inquire whether the committee of management would consider extending the period of repayment of mortgage to twenty-five or thirty years in order to help the younger officer whose salary was not so large as it would probably be a number of years hence. There were societies offering twenty-five years, and in Leeds one of the big societies was giving loans at four and a half per cent.

Mr. Lloyd replied that the committee of management were very sympathetic to the points raised, but as long as they were flooded out with applications for mortgages they naturally could not extend their operations. They would be very pleased to consider and, he hoped, approve the extension of the period to twenty-five years or more. The point with regard to the rate of interest was the very crux of the society's operations, and would always be borne in mind.

Mr. T. Freeman (Manchester), vice-chairman, said the sub-committee appointed to deal with applications for mortgages had put in a great deal of work, and he moved that the best thanks of the society be accorded to them. The vote was heartily endorsed by the meeting.

Mr. Auger expressed thanks on behalf of the sub-committee.

A number of alterations to rules were adopted.

The election of the committee of management is left to the National Executive Council for the first five years, the members appointed being: Messrs. W. G. Auger (chairman), T. Freeman (vice-chairman), W. W. Armitage, J. T. Baker, D. L. Griffiths, W. E. Lloyd, A. Denton Ogden, and F. J. Willett.

SUPERANNUATION

VICTORY FOR THE OFFICERS AT SOUTH SHIELDS

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The treatment meted out to the staff at South Shields has frequently been commented upon in these columns, but never have such scenes been witnessed as during the last few weeks. On May 31, the Council, after several previous applications, decided to adopt the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, by the requisite two-thirds majority.

No sooner had that been done than the defeated minority put down a notice of motion to come before an adjourned meeting of the Council, for the adopting resolution to be rescinded. In the meantime, an intensive Press campaign had been inaugurated, but, after a warm debate in the Council Chamber, the notice of motion was defeated.

Following their second defeat, representatives of the minority party decided to address a town's indignation meeting, which took place in one of the largest schoolrooms in South Shields. The meeting, ostensibly organised by the Chamber of Trades, was presided over by Mr. S. F. Whittles, the principal speakers being Councillor R. Chapman, M.P. (Deputy Mayor), and Councillor E. Thompson. A resolution demanding a poll of the electors was passed at a crowded meeting. For some days prior to the meeting, hundreds of handbills had been distributed in the town advertising "A public indignation meeting."

In order that a complete and accurate record of the proceedings should be obtained, the Association engaged a firm of shorthand writers to take a verbatim report.

Citizens' Support

It must not be thought that during this time the supporters of the scheme had been idle. As a counter-blast to the indignation meeting, the South Shields Labour Party called, in the Market Place, a huge mass meeting, which, it is estimated, was attended by at least 1,500 people. The scheme was explained in detail by Councillor E. Gompertz, and when a resolution in support was put to the meeting, only two or three hands were held up against it.

At the Council meeting, another heated discussion took place on the confirming resolution, which was eventually carried by 29 votes to 23.

Thus ends the fight for superannuation in South Shields. The staff are naturally delighted with the result. Never has so much bitterness been imported into any fight with which we have been connected. The staff have been held up to opprobrium, and no effort has been spared to work upon the feelings and distresses of the poorer members of the community and the unemployed. The opposition have learnt that not all responsible men can be ruthlessly intimidated or browbeaten with impunity. The majority of the members of the Council recognise the value of the staff and the merits of the case for superannuation.

LIVERPOOL DIPLOMA RESULTS

Appended are the names of the successful candidates for the diploma of Public Administration at Liverpool University. In the First Year Mr. J. Webster was awarded the Rathbone Prize in Economics. The prize was won in open competition with all University students, undergraduate and other.

Biglands, N. F.; Challinor, J.; Galway, S. J.; Hilton, H. L.; Hockenhull, N. G.; Malley, W. S. (with distinction); Moore, S.; Pierpoint, H. K.; Riley, E. L.; Roberts, H. O.; Watson, W. R.; Wilson, N.; (with distinction); Young, K. S.

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HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch honorary secretaries from Headquarters:—

JUNE 20

Circular No. 48/*Log*/1933. (*To local correspondents of Logomia.*)

(*a*) Regarding fire and householders' comprehensive insurances.

(*b*) Giving information relating to additional benefits under the motor car insurance scheme and stating that a copy of the motor car insurance prospectus will be forwarded in due course.

(*c*) Regarding motor cycle insurance premiums.

Circular No. 49/*B.S.*/1933. (*To branch secretaries and local correspondents of the Building Society.*)

Regarding the extension of investment facilities to non-members of the Association.

JUNE 23.

Circular No. 50/*Log*/1933.

See sections (*b*) and (*c*) of circular No. 48/Log/1933, dated June 20.

Circular No. 51/*Gen.*/1933.

Regarding national rule 9—scale of subscriptions—as amended at the annual conference, 1933.

JULY 12

Circular No. 52/*Gen.*/1933. (*To branch secretaries and education correspondents.*)

Regarding (*a*) the new appointment to the post of Director of Studies for the I.M.T.A. course; (*b*) enrolment of students for this course.

Circular No. 53/*Gen.*/1933.

Regarding the suggestion put forward at the meeting of education correspondents held at the annual conference, in connection with short lecture programmes among the branches.

Circular No. 54/*Gen.*/1933.

(*a*) Enclosing register of membership form for the third quarter.

(*b*) Stating that supplies of the annual report are shortly to be issued to branches and giving information relating to the report.

(*c*) Regarding the holidays of headquarters' staff.

Circular No. 55/*Gen.*/1933.

(*a*) Enclosing copies of N.A.L.G.O. advertisement and requesting display.

(*b*) Stating that further copies are available on request.

(*c*) Regarding Boots' Booklovers' Library.

Circular No. 56/*Gen.*/1933.

Concerning the correspondence chess competition 1933/4, and enclosing entry forms.

Circular No. 57/*B.S.*/1933.

(*a*) Enclosing copies of share and deposit application forms for members and non-members of the Association.

(*b*) Giving information relating to the Building Society.

BRANCH TREASURERS ARE REMINDED THAT ON AUGUST 31 THEY ARE TO REMIT TO HEADQUARTERS, ALL MONEYS DUE TO THE ASSOCIATION

MOTOR CAR INSURANCE

Free Additional Benefits

For the past three years N.A.L.G.O. has had in force a motor insurance scheme whereby its members have been able to obtain the insurance of their motor cars at rates of premium considerably below those usually charged for such insurance, whilst the cover given has been as good as, and in most cases better than, that offered by the other insurance offices.

The Association has, however, been endeavouring for some considerable time to get its underwriters to agree to the inclusion of official use of the insured's car without any additional premium being charged, and this cover will be given under all new policies issued and all policies renewed on or after August 1, 1933. Further, the Association has been able to arrange for a cumulative "No Claim" bonus to be offered to its members as from August 1, 1933, on the following basis:

No claim for one year, 20 per cent. bonus.

No claim for two consecutive years, 25 per cent. bonus.

No claim for three consecutive years, 30 per cent. bonus.

No claim for four or more consecutive years, 33⅓ per cent. bonus.

It has also been agreed that any member who has been insured under the Association's motor scheme for two or more consecutive years free from claim will be entitled to qualify on the next renewal date (on or after August 1, 1933) for a "No Claim" bonus of 25 per cent.

Information in regard to all forms of insurance can be obtained from Local Correspondents or direct from the Insurance Department, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

N.A.L.G.O. SCHOLARSHIPS

Nominations for Awards

Details were given in the May issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE of the comprehensive series of exhibitions and scholarships to be awarded annually by N.A.L.G.O. on the results of the examinations by various professional and technical bodies concerned with local government, and in the July issue a number of nominations for awards were given. The following are further nominations:—

Name of Examining Body	*Nomination*	*Department*	*Local Authority*
N.A.L.G.O.			
Exhibition	Silcock, H.	Engineer's	Southport and District Water Board
Scholarship	Cleare, H. M.	Electricity	East Ham
Prize	Church, F. B.	Clerk's	Kent C.C.
Chartered Institute of Secretaries			
Exhibition	Hayes, A. E.	Gas Dept.	Smethwick
Scholarship	Groves, L. P.	Public Health	Salop C.C.
Prize	Wildsmith, O.	Transport	Wolverhampton
Board of Trade			
Scholarship	Hough, L.	Wts. & M. Dept.	Stockport
Prize	Beer, G.	Wts. & M. Dept.	Bath

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

ALTHOUGH the last day for receiving entries for the N.A.L.G.O. Correspondence Chess Competition, 1933-34, was July 31, further entries can be received until Tuesday, August 8.

This competition, which is for the "Pullinger" Cup—to be presented to the winners at the Annual Conference, 1934—is conducted by correspondence, except where practicable and agreeable to the players concerned, when play over the board is permitted.

The entry fee for a team consisting of three players is only 7s. 6d. per team and these fees are devoted to the provision of souvenirs for the winners.

Entry forms were sent to branch secretaries on July 12 last and it is hoped that members will do their best to ensure that this year there will be a record entry and keen competition for the trophy.

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

The following is a statement of the deductions known to have been made by local authorities following the issue of Circular 1222 and of the action taken in regard to such deductions:—

Authorities	*Deductions following Cir. 1222 made by*	*Terminated.*	*Modified.*	*Continued.*
ENGLAND AND WALES				
Counties ..(62) ..	62	10	14	21
County Boroughs (83)	72	18	16	28
Met. Boroughs and City Corpn. (29)	9	6	2	1
Boroughs (263) ..	125	35	30	22
Urban Districts (763)	237	57	45	29
Rural Districts (608)	127	35	21	28
	632	161	128	129
SCOTLAND				
Counties (33) ..	22	2	—	1
Burghs (201) ..	40	3	—	3
	62	5	—	4
Grand Totals ..	694	166	128	133

Supplementing the information given in the July, 1932, and subsequent issues of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, the following further information in regard to salary deductions has been received:

Deductions Continued. — Nottinghamshire, Barrow-in-Furness, Bingham R.D.C., Bolsover U.D.C., Bromsgrove, R.D.C. Burton-on-Trent, Cheadle R.D.C., Clown R.D.C., Knighton U.D.C., Oundle R.D.C., Peterborough R.D.C., Tamworth R.D.C., West Bromwich, Buxton, Jarrow, Devon C.C., West Ham, Yarmouth, Aylesbury, Gravesend, Hove, New Mill U.D.C., Bedford, Roxburghshire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Helensburgh.

Modified Scale of Deductions.—Selby U.D.C., Tynemouth, Morecambe, and Heysham, Hemel Hempstead, Burnley, Hornsey, Failsworth U.D.C., Fulwood U.D.C., Chorley R.D.C.

Deductions Terminated.—Rhyl U.D.C., Ince-in-Makerfield U.D.C., Colwyn Bay U.D.C., Surbiton U.D.C., Gloucester, Holborn, Lancaster R.D.C., West Lancashire R.D.C., Lunesdale R.D.C., Ulverston R.D.C., Poulton-le-Fylde U.D.C., Turton U.D.C., Gosforth U.D.C., Sedgefield R.D.C., London, Birkenhead, Chesterfield, Port Talbot, Basford R.D.C., Biddulph U.D.C., Grimsby R.D.C. Hereford, R.D.C., Leominster and Wigmore R.D.C., Lichfield R.D.C., Oxendon R.D.C., Pershore R.D.C., Wem R.D.C., Billingham U.D.C., Settle R.D.C., N. Riding C.C., W. Riding C.C., Sturminster R.D.C., Ayrshire, Stirling, Irvine, Hastings, Ilfracombe U.D.C. (as from October 1, 1933), Ilford, Wembley U.D.C., Ealing, Largs, Oxford City, Dudley, Darlington, Dover, Banbury, Chippenham, Bognor Regis U.D.C., Wanstead U.D.C., Woking U.D.C., Yeadon U.D.C., Isle of Thanet R.D.C.

With reference to the statement which appeared in the June issue of the journal, that the temporary reductions in salaries of the West Riding County Council staff would terminate on July 1, 1933, it was expected that a revaluation of the services of the staff, which has been taking place during the last few months, would have been completed, and been operative by July 1 last, and that under the new conditions the temporary reductions would cease. Unfortunately, the work of revaluation has not yet been completed, with the result that the temporary reductions are still operating for a further period.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months; February, 41; March, 39; April, 37; May, 36; June, 36; July, 38. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follow:

	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.
Food	14	14	18
Rent	55	56	56
Clothing	85	85	85
Fuel and Light ..	70	70	70
Other Items ..	75	75	75

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

HOPE

THE National Union of Ratepayers' Associations has issued a brochure intended to guide any group of citizens who wish to form a Ratepayers' Association, and it strikes an entirely new note in its introduction. It seeks at the outset to dispel a few wrong impressions that a Ratepayers' Association exists as a "sort of public squirt, which can be filled with dirty water . . . that it is also looked upon as a convenient megaphone, which will magnify and make public any sort of complaint, without regard to its reasonableness, or inquiry into its reality." In urging the formation of active and efficient Ratepayers' Associations in every town and district, it is not suggested, says the booklet, that local government is futile or ineffective, much less that it is corrupt, but it is done in order to provide a foundation of sound public opinion and a means by which a difficult task may be rendered easier, more efficient, and more acceptable, and of interest to a much greater number of the general public.

A Change Of Policy

There must have been serious heart-burning in the inner councils of the National Union with the general attitude of local associations, because it condemns "the theory, which was at one time general, and possibly still prevails in some quarters, that it is the main and principal object of a Ratepayers' Association to oppose and criticise the local council in season and out of season . . . a sure road to a place on the committee was to be forever raising the cry 'Down with the Council,' 'out with the overpaid official,' and so on." Associations are advised to abandon the attitude of hostility where it exists and follow a policy of cultivating friendly relations with the local authority—and even with the officials—because at one point of the book of words it says: "associations will find that the local officials are quite ready and willing to come and talk about the work they are responsible for doing, provided they are likely to get fair treatment."

The strictest courtesy and fairness in all relations with the individual members and officials of local authorities is strongly urged. "The public calling of names and denouncing of individuals as "members of a gang" or "overpaid officials," is merely the lowest form of electioneering, and should not form part of the stock-in-trade of an association. It embitters the relationship and helps to disgust people with public affairs."

A New Outlook

The first impression one gets from reading this brochure is that it is a frank admission of what Ratepayers' Associations have been in the past, and that there is now dawning upon the consciousness of the National Union of Ratepayers' Associations a recognition that the public has been justifiably indifferent to the note they have struck in the past, and that a new conception of their functions is inevitable. If this publication means that the Ratepayers' Associations are to take a more intelligent view of local government and to pay more attention to constructive social administration than to a "half-penny off the rates," then they will at least have removed the obnoxiousness of their existence, but still not have justified it.

The Only Ratepayers' Movement

The policy of the Ratepayers' Associations has done more harm to local government than any other movement of the last decade. If they now repent, then we rejoice, but even under a new cloak of responsibilities, they will always be suspect. Every ratepayer is free to exercise his vote at local government elections in favour of the candidate who is best suited in his opinion to look after the interests of the local authority, and he is by constitutional legislation a member of the only ratepayers' movement which legitimately has the right to exercise influence upon local government policy.

Interests of the Ratepayers

There is a notion abroad that most of the rates which any town collects are paid by only a few of the townspeople, and most of these people generally are more concerned with the amount of the rates than with the value of the services which are given by the local authority. Even questions of extravagant expenditure are naturally only relative, and only become doubtful when they are made political. Whichever way we look at this, or however pious may be the new cloak of the National Union of Ratepayers' Associations, we cannot get away from the fact that the Town Council is the proper body to look after the interests of the ratepayers, and if, at the end of the year they have not done it properly, then they should be turned out and others elected.

The Test

When the Ratepayers' Associations put up a candidate at a municipal election to contest a seat against a retiring member who may have shown that his policy is one of keeping down the rates at any cost, even to the disadvantage of the community as a whole, then we shall have confidence in the claim that good local government is the objective of the Union.

HOLIDAYS

THE month of August is more or less generally recognised as the vacation period in the Local Government Service. Parliament is "up," schools are closed, and town councils are in recess. The lull in these activities means a breathing space to local government officers and a much needed rest from the cares and anxieties which fall upon them. It is a period of more moderate activity in N.A.L.G.O. —one is an incidence of the other—and we hope that all will benefit from the relaxation, and that the early autumn will bring everyone back into harness fortified for that greater work which lies before them.

The Crisis—and After

It will be two years this month since the first crisis came upon the country which caused the panic attack upon public officers, and let loose hordes of people who had for years been longing to get their hands on the throat of public administration. Some of them gained temporary successes, but everyone who had any idea of the real cause of those events knew that out of it all must emerge sooner or later a measure of greater control. It is now recognised in official circles that the days of *laisser faire* have gone for ever, and that its place must be taken by a system of national planning and control. That inevitable change must enhance the authority of government rather than retard it.

Events are justifying all that we have said in past issues. There is nothing to be gained by pillorying the obsolete thinkers; but, on the other hand, everything is to be gained by realising that the inevitable development of public administration means a greater responsibility for those who are engaged in it. It is because we realise that the autumn and winter may bring those greater responsibilities a stage nearer that we hope that each one will take advantage of the vacation period and return full of confidence in the future of local government.

COST ACCOUNTANCY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

APPLICATION OF MECHANICAL DEVICES

By W. H. BODDINGTON (DUNDEE)

MANY local authorities now exercise financial control by the operation of modern costing systems. Such systems incorporate the supervision of methods of wage payment, stocks and stores control, departmental costing and the allocation of general expenses of administration. Cost accountancy has been introduced because of its claim to detect waste, to prevent redundancy of labour, to trace excessive stocks, and to contribute to the perfecting of the financial organisation. Cost accountancy, in the municipal sense, is in its infancy in a much more pronounced degree than is that of a manufacturing character.

The fact that commercially the primary aim is to cut down costs, whilst municipally adjustment to estimate is the original requirement, is only a differentiation of degree since in both types of activity the ultimate and principal aim is that of reducing costs and constructing bases for future comparisons, and other statistical purposes. Such desirable results can only be attained by means of scientific schemes of costing.

These distinctions and qualifications should always be borne in mind in any discussion of costing methods as applied to the departments of a municipality.

Comparison of Unit Costs

By the development of cost accountancy in local government finance one is able to compare the unit cost of any service with the unit cost of a similar service in other cities, towns, and districts. Members of Councils and ratepayers generally are thereby enabled to appreciate the relative efficiencies of the services of their own locality as compared with those of other areas.

In this regard the following comment by the County Accountant of Cumberland in a recent review of his Council's finances should be noted :

> "The amount expended on a particular service by a Local Authority requires to be expressed in terms of an appropriate unit before comparisons can be made with other local authorities in the country. Even then, inferences should not be drawn from comparative statistics without due regard to local circumstances, method of compilation, and other pitfalls inherent in statistics improperly used. Nevertheless, unit costs are extremely useful and interesting, and there is a growing tendency that such figures be compiled in order to facilitate comparisons."

Modern Municipal Cost Accountancy is really a development of the recommendations appearing in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Accounts of Local Authorities issued as long ago as 1907. The report stated, *inter alia* :—

> "In the case of many of the larger authorities cost accounts of a systematic character are kept, while in smaller places works are usually carried out by contract. But the evidence we have obtained seems to show that there must be a considerable number of authorities who carry out works by direct labour and yet have no regular system of cost accounts in operation; and in these cases any statements of costs that are prepared must necessarily be of an unreliable character."

Costing Appliances

Since the issue of the Report, as might be expected, great progress has been made, not only in the science of cost accountancy, but in the application of its principles to the activities of local authorities. A comparatively recent feature has been the introduction of mechanical costing devices. By the utilisation of such equipment written information, having first been transposed into suitable form, is so handled mechanically as to give results identical with those previously given by hand methods, and to give them much more expeditiously.

The basis of such accounting by machinery is the coding of all original particulars whether they refer to dates, descriptions, locations, or other details, into numbers, so that all information whether of a numerical character or not in the first instance is numerically described before proceeding. The final results are naturally also produced as numbers which need to be decoded in those cases in which numbers would not be sufficiently illuminating to those for whom the results are prepared.

Uses of Mechanical Installations

Of the many uses to which mechanical installations can be put, the following may be mentioned : Distributing wages and materials charges; computing hours, amounts, and on-costs on completed jobs; checking estimates; making rate adjustments according to basis of payment of wages ; preparing monthly statements of comparative costs; comparing hours, amounts, and on-costs of work in progress; analysing expense details ; stores accounting and control.

The advantages to be gained are : Part elimination of the strain of dissection and tabulation; increase of facilities for exhaustive distribution; possibility of extracting far greater detail in regard to classifications, analyses, and aggregates, than by hand methods; increased speed and accuracy of results; preparation of essential figures before subsidiary ones, whereas without machines detailed figures must necessarily be extracted before essential figures are made available; minimising of probable errors; increase in general efficiency as the outcome of chief officials having prompter and more instructive figures; securing of economies which otherwise would not be obtained on account of the possibilities not being disclosed; diminution in volume of posting into books of accounts; relief of highly-paid clerks by transference of the mechanical work to girls, who quickly become expert operators.

Centralised Costing

This consideration of mechanical costing leads naturally to the oft-debated question of centralised costing.

Centralised costing would appear to be desirable in all, although only possible in the largest, municipalities. Many, however, prefer decentralised costing irrespective of the size of the authority, and some pin their faith to an intermediate scheme. Speaking generally, municipal financial officers favour centralised, and their executive colleagues decentralised, systems of costing. In some authorities the two officials are in complete agreement on the question, but these cases constitute the exception rather than the rule.

Considering the matter impartially, cost accountancy appears to be more closely allied to finance than, for example, to engineering. It is argued by some, therefore, that it should be controlled by the chief financial officer. Such control, it should be noted, does not necessarily imply centralisation. On the contrary, control by the finance department may be almost as effective when the costing is decentralised as when it is centralised. Centralisation, however, in its broadest sense means not only control, but the organisation of the entire costing of all the departments of the municipality in one central costing branch either attached to, or working in the closest co-operation with, the finance department.

With this underlying idea the following advantages of centralisation are urged :—

(*a*) Organisation in the office of, as well as control by, the chief financial officer gives to members of Council and the public, confidence in the published results.

(*b*) The finance department has particulars in its records of all charges, including debt charges, legal expenses, expenditure *re* purchases of property, central establishment allocations, etc., not immediately available to executive departments, and is more likely, therefore, to compile a complete cost including a full proportion of on-costs than is, for example, a surveyor's department, whose main interest is to report economical working results even at the sacrifice, it is sometimes feared, of meticulous compilation.

(*c*) Reconciliation with the financial records is more easily effected.

(*d*) Economies in staffing and machine "units" are more easily effected.

(*e*) It facilitates other economies, e.g. central stores.

On the other hand, the supporters of decentralisation argue that :—

(*a*) Cost records should be prepared by the department by which the works are carried out for reasons of convenience of reference to technicians, etc.

(*b*) Records are more quickly available to the technical staff.

(*c*) The accountant responsible for the costing work of a department should be an officer of that department, and should be responsible to the head of that department, and not to the chief financial officer.

(*d*) The chief financial officer is not competent to comment fairly on many cost records involving technical considerations.

(*e*) Co-operation can exist without centralisation.

(*f*) Complete centralisation is impracticable except in the rare cases of large municipalities which have numerous accounting and costing sections of staffs of all undertakings housed in one administrative block of buildings.

Central Costs Bureau

It may be that, in certain cases a middle course of supervision is preferable to one of complete centralisation or one of complete decentralisation. In several of the larger authorities a qualified cost clerk is in charge of the costing work of each of the trading departments and of the larger rating departments. The cost clerks are, or should be, under the supervision of the cost accountant, who should hold the position of a principal assistant to the city or county treasurer. The cost accountant reports direct to the treasurer, who, in turn, reports to committees and thence to council.

As a further desirable development, the formation of a Central Costs Bureau is suggested. The duty of such a bureau would be the collection of exhaustive data from all local authorities with a view to careful comparison and research. Unit costs would be tabulated and reports prepared on the relative efficiencies in comparable services in different authorities, due allowances being made for variations in local conditions.

On the basis of conclusions drawn, standard costs might be set up year by year. It would take a considerable time to complete the preliminary survey, but the ultimate economies might well be considerable.

Appointment of Staff

In the interests of financial purity and economical working it is submitted that all municipalities should appoint duly qualified cost clerks to all trading and other departments to which scientific costing could be applied. An added advantage would be gained if a man of high standing in his profession were appointed as cost accountant in the finance department. It would be the duty of this official to supervise and co-ordinate the costing work of the various departments of each local authority.

It is only by arrangements of this kind that the full benefits of cost accountancy can accrue to local government.

NALGO HOUSE

Will you be at the Grand Fête on 2nd September?

An interesting function, in the form of a garden party and bazaar, will be held at Nalgo House, Matlock, on Saturday, September 2, at 2.30 p.m., the proceeds of which will be handed over to the N.A.L.G.O. Benevolent and Orphan Fund. There will be various stalls for the sale of a large variety of goods. Games will also be arranged. As the grounds will be open to the public, it is confidently anticipated that large numbers will attend, and that the sales will reach respectable dimensions. Any assistance which members can render, either by way of gifts or of their services—before, during or after the function—will be greatly appreciated; but, at all events, be there! Here is a glorious opportunity for those who have stayed at Nalgo House to arrange those oft-spoken-of re-unions, and they may be sure that they will receive as warm a welcome on this occasion as they did when they first arrived at the home. Great credit is due to Miss M. L. Bridges, the Matron, who conceived the idea of arranging this fête, for the tremendous amount of work which she is performing. If the supporters of the idea are as enthusiastic as the Matron, who hopes, by this means, to raise at least £50 for the Fund, then its success is assured.

N.A.L.G.O. RIFLE CLUBS

Results of Competitions

The following are the results of the competitions in connection with N.A.L.G.O. rifle clubs for the year ended March 31, 1933.

"Mappin Shield."—Won by Bournemouth with a score of 391 out of possible 400. Leeds were second with 389.

"Local Government Chronicle" Cup.—Bournemouth, 394, beat Kent County Officers, 391.

The "Greener" Cup.—Won by Leeds with 11 points out of possible 12. Runners up, Bournemouth, 10 points.

The "Chas. Behren" Cup.—Winners, Leeds, 19 points; runners up, Bournemouth, 15 points.

The "Homewood Crawford" Shield was won by Bournemouth after tie shoots with Leeds and Southampton.

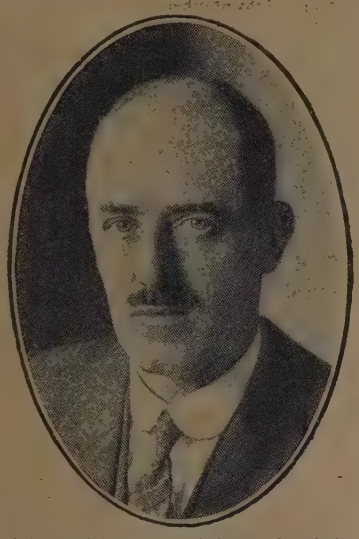
The Gold Medal for the highest individual average was won by Mr. C. C. Coffin, Bournemouth, with an average of 98.83.

The "Bingham" Trophy (individual) was won by Mr. C. C. Coffin, Bournemouth.

First President's Prize (rose bowl) was won by Mr. D. Taylor, Bournemouth, with a score of 297.25 on the handicap system.

OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL

MR. R. H. COULTHARD, Acting Borough Treasurer since the death of Mr. J. Bridge, has been appointed Borough Treasurer of South Shields. The whole of Mr. Coulthard's career has been passed in the service of the South Shields Corporation. For some years he acted as Honorary Secretary of the South Shields Branch, and his interest in the work of the Association is still as keen as ever.



Mr. R. H. COULTHARD, A.S.A.A.
Deputy Treasurer at South Shields, appointed Treasurer

Dr. Charles Porter, Medical Officer of Health of St. Marylebone, has been elected president of the Society of Medical Officers of Health for the session 1933-34, and will take up office on October 1 next. He is a senior member of the Council of the Society and for fifteen years was hon. secretary of the Metropolitan Branch, resigning from that office to become the branch president for two years. He has been hon. editor of *Public Health*, the official organ of the Society, for the past seven years. Dr. Porter's activities in connection with the Royal Sanitary Institute are also well known, and upon relinquishing the chairmanship of the Council of that body recently, he was appointed registrar.

Despite these and many other calls upon his services, Dr. Porter has taken his share in the work of N.A.L.G.O. at St. Marylebone. A member of the Association since its inception, he was chairman of the local Officers' Club (as the Branch was then named) from 1910-12, and chairman of the Executive Committee from 1911-14.

* * *

Dr. Malcolm Barker has been appointed Medical Officer of Health of East Ham in succession to Dr. W. Benton, who retires on September 14 under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922. Dr. Barker is at present Resident Medical Superintendent at the Borough Isolation Hospital and Deputy Medical Officer of Health. He is keenly interested in the work of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O., and was elected chairman at the last annual general meeting. A man of charming personality, he commands the respect of every member of this branch.

* * *

Mr. J. Wilkinson, a member of the Norwich Branch of N.A.L.G.O. since its formation, who has served on the Eastern District Committee and on the local executive, has just retired from his employment with the Norwich Education Committee after thirty-five years' service. He has held the position of Chief Attendance Officer for the last twenty-five years.

* * *

Mr. P. McKenna and Mr. H. W. Ness, two members of the East Riding County Officers' Branch, who have retired on superannuation, were recipients of gifts from their colleagues at a gathering in the County Hall, Beverley. Mr. P. Brown, the honorary secretary of the branch, presented Mr. McKenna with a clock and Mr. Ness with a silk umbrella and a case of pipes.

* * *

A presentation of electrical equipment was made to Mr E. G. Barton, Cemetery Registrar, Ramsbottom, on July 14, on his leaving the town to take up the appointment of Cemetery Registrar under the Doncaster Corporation.

* * *

Mr. Otto Hill, for many years a rate collector under the Islington Borough Council, died on July 5. For many years he had been an active member of N.A.L.G.O., and had been president of the Islington Branch.

* * *

Mr. A. Lockwell, of the Housing Department of Manchester Corporation, has succeeded in obtaining the degree of B.A.Admin., at the Manchester University

* * *

Marking the completion of 21 years' service as Medical Officer of the Public Assistance Institution, North Shields, Dr. J. B. Williamson was recently presented with an all-electric radio receiver by past and present members of the staffs of the Institution and Children's Homes.

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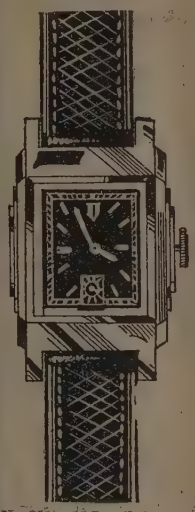

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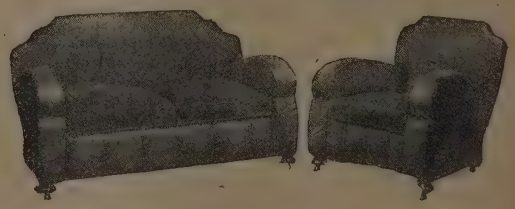

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CAYTON BAY CAMP OPENED

THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY AT N.A.L.G.O.'S NEW BUNGALOW TOWN BY THE SEA

A group of visitors on the opening day. Front row: Mr. H. W. Smith, A.M.I.C.E., Borough Engineer of Scarborough, hon. architect of the Camp (fifth from left); the Mayor of Scarborough; the Mayoress; Mr. C. G. Brown, President of the Association; Mr. F. J. Willett, Chairman of the National Executive Council; and Mr. G. W. Coster, Junior Vice-President

MORE auspicious conditions to mark the inauguration of the Cayton Bay Holiday Camp at Scarborough could hardly have been wished for than those which prevailed on the occasion of the opening ceremony on Saturday, July 1. The best laid schemes of mice and men have the habit of going "aft agley," and even the most perfect programme that could have been arranged at Abingdon Street and at Scarborough might have been sadly marred by unfavourable weather. It is enough to say that the conditions were ideal.

The Camp has been designed and constructed within a comparatively few months and the setting in which this beautiful and dignified suburb of Scarborough was seen recalled to mind Milton's mighty measure of the "blest abode" where "no loveliness we see, in all the earth, but it abounds in thee." Here, indeed, is a picturesque retreat which furnishes all those advantages for which Cayton Bay has been acquired by the Association—a model undertaking of its kind and perhaps the finest holiday camp to be found in the British Isles.

Readers of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE need hardly be reminded that for several years N.A.L.G.O. has conducted a very successful camp at Croyde Bay in Devon. It was inevitable, of course, that the demand should arise for similar facilities for Northern and Midland members. The choice of a suitable site gave the responsible committee a good deal of anxious thought, and eventually Cayton Bay was selected. Here N.A.L.G.O. members will be a self-contained community, possessing almost everything which goes to make an ideal holiday by the sea. The camp has been planned on bungalow lines, with accommodation for the individual visitor or the family party. The accommodation consists of permanent bungalows of attractive design, a dining hall, recreation room, billiards room, rest and card room, servants' block and the usual offices. There are tennis courts, a bowling green, children's playground, and garages.

The camp is arranged in three quadrangles, open to the south. The bungalows and offices skirt three sides of the quadrangles, and practically every bungalow possesses a sea view. There is a concrete roadway along the northern boundary from the high road to the cliffs and behind the quadrangles. The garages are parallel with the high road. Altogether, there are 124 bungalows with the following accommodation:

Bungalows	*Accommodation*	*Persons*
30	2 single beds	60
28	1 double bed	56
36	1 single bed	36
16	1 double, 1 single beds	48
6	1 double, 2 single beds	24
6	3 single beds	18
2	3 single, 1 double beds	10
124		252

Features of the Buildings

Most of the bungalows are in pairs, but some are in blocks of four. Each is fitted with a wash-basin, dressing-table, and wardrobe, and there is ample space for hats and coats. All the bungalows and the remainder of the camp are equipped with electric light. The dining hall accommodates all the campers at one sitting. The kitchen and sculleries, staff dining rooms, and offices are at one side, and a recreation room at the other. Adequate bathroom and lavatory accommodation is provided. The whole of these sections comprises a long, low building of steel frame construction, covered with asbestos pantiles and stucco. Adjoining the recreation room is a large canteen or shop where everything that the campers can need may be purchased.

The billiards room and the rest and card room, approached from an exterior verandah, is a building similar to that referred to above, but with a gable in the centre of the front elevation. The rest room is equipped with a fireplace which will be at all times a cheerful and comfortable resort for the campers. The children's playground is the open quadrangle formed by the bungalows and nearest to the high road; the bowling green occupies that opposite to the dining room and recreation block; and the tennis court that opposite to the billiards room and the rest and card room.

The whole of the accommodation described above is between the Filey Road and a point where the field narrows to the edge of the wood. A new and commodious pathway, to replace the straggling and insecure pathway across the field, has been constructed for the use of the general public, including a flight of steps to replace that portion where the cliff has fallen away and rendered access to the beach very difficult. The undercliff, with its summer houses and rock gardens, is extremely attractive, and it is intended to maintain its beauty. The camp, which is within ten minutes' omnibus ride from Scarborough, comprises ninety-four acres, and the total cost has been £25,000.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with a luncheon at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, when the National Executive Council entertained the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. G. K. G. Pindar) and others prominent in the civic life of the town. Among the guests were Mr. Sydney Jones, the Town Clerk, and Mrs. Jones; Mr. Harry W. Smith, A.M.I.C.E., the borough engineer, who has acted as honorary architect of the camp, and Mrs. Smith; Dr. S. F. Linton, the Medical Officer of Health, and Mrs. Linton; Mr. Walter Abbott, the Chief Constable; Mr. E. J. Jarvis, the borough electrical engineer, and Mrs. Jarvis; Mr. S. Foord, publicity officer, Scarborough Corporation; Mr. Bernard Smedley, chief rates collector; Mr. C. K. Moss, assistant borough engineer; Mr. Whittaker, representing the contractors; and a number of members of the Corporation. Mr. Cecil Brown, ex-Town Clerk of Cardiff, president of the Association, presided; and representatives of the Association and others present included Mr. G. W. Coster, the junior vice-president: Mr. L. Hill, the general secretary, and Mrs. Hill; Mr. F. J. Willett, chairman of the National Executive Council: Mr. J. W. Singleton, chairman of the Publications and Recreations Committee; Mr. A. G. Bolton, Chairman of the Cayton Bay Camp Sub-Committee; Mr. W. H. Whinnerah; Mr. G. S. Fraser, Town

(*Continued on next page*)

CAYTON BAY

(*Continued from preceding page*)

Clerk of Aberdeen; Mrs. G. Franks, Mr. J. E. Gee, Mr. W. G. Auger, Mr. A. Webb, and Mr. A. D. Pinches.

Following the luncheon, at which there were no speeches, the company proceeded by motors to the camp where the opening ceremony was held, in the recreation room, under the chairmanship of the president, who expressed the Association's indebtedness to the Mayoress of Scarborough for coming to declare the camp open. Mr. Brown paid a high tribute to Mr. Smith, the borough engineer, for his invaluable services as honorary architect of the camp. Mr. Brown had no doubt that the Cayton Bay Camp would achieve the same success which had attended the Croyde Bay Camp.

The President of N.A.L.G.O. (Mr. C. G. Brown, ex-Town Clerk of Cardiff) greets the Mayoress of Scarborough. On the extreme left is the Mayor of Scarborough, and on the right of the President, Mr. G. W. Coster, Junior Vice-President; Mrs. L. Hill; Mr. H. Wright, Departmental Secretary in charge of special activities; and Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O.

The Mayoress, in declaring the camp open, said that N.A.L.G.O. was making history that day. She regarded it as a great honour to be invited to open the camp. She had seen the camp when it was half finished, and she wished all had been able to see it in that condition just to be in a position to appreciate the amount of work that had been done. She hoped the camp would flourish and N.A.L.G.O. would flourish, and that members would spend many happy days at Cayton Bay.

Miss Whittaker, daughter of the contractor, presented a bouquet to the Mayoress, to whom a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. W. Singleton, Borough Librarian of Accrington, and chairman of the Publications and Recreations Committee of the Association. The camp, he said, would be a delightful acquisition to the neighbourhood of Scarborough. He could not speak in terms of too great praise concerning the services rendered by Mr. Smith, the borough engineer of Scarborough. He also referred to the good work done by Mr. Alderson, and added that the Association were indebted to the contractors for the skill and ability they had devoted to the construction of the camp. Mr. Singleton concluded by presenting a handsome silver rose bowl to the Mayoress as a token of appreciation of her services.

The company thereafter inspected the camp and were later entertained to tea. On the call of the Mayor, the guests rose and enthusiastically responded to the toast of "Prosperity to the Cayton Bay Holiday Camp." The president, who presided, proposed the toast of the health of the manager and manageress of the camp, Captain and Mrs. Kitching.

Mr. Smith observed that he would be retiring soon and his work for the Cayton Bay Camp would make a "nice little finish." It had been a great pleasure to him to do what he had done for the younger people in connection with the camp. He paid a tribute to Mr. Moss and Mr. Alderson for the assistance they had given him, and also to the contractors. Mr. Whittaker also spoke, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the president, proposed by Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E., the junior vice-president. Some 200 campers arrived during the day, and the camp was soon a hive of activity and enjoyment.

ENGINEERS' TRAINING

IS A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ESSENTIAL?

In a paper which he submitted to the Annual Conference of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers, Mr. Ernest J. Elford, M.Inst.C.E., Borough Engineer of Wandsworth, and a Past President of the Institution, contended that there was no justification for the assertion made in some quarters that technical qualifications are not required in local government administration and are, in fact, a disadvantage. There has been considerable controversy on the subject of the education and training of local government engineers. On the one hand there are those who insist that a university education is essential and that this should be a sufficient qualification for a paid position in an engineer's department. There are others who consider university education as unnecessary and who advocate a period of articled pupilage with evening and spare time study. In Mr. Elford's view, a man of the right type with a sound general education will make good in the local government service, whether he acquires his education at the university or by night classes.

What he describes as the curse of articled pupil system is the practice of some engineers who take pupils in such numbers, or under such conditions, that they cannot afford them reasonable facilities for training and experience. The Council of the Institution, it may be noted, is taking active steps to discourage the taking of pupils unless they can be properly trained. One rule which Mr. Elford suggests should be rigidly observed, is that no pupil should be accepted unless he had already reached matriculation standard.

Mr. Elford is by no means enthusiastic about university training for engineers. In many cases, he says, the teachers and teaching are too academic, and a student entering an office has to unlearn much that he has been taught. Again, Mr. Elford's experience leads him to believe that, other things being equal, the man who has had a varied experience makes a better administrator than one who has spent his whole professional life in one office. He has known "more than one case where a man's career has been ruined by an increase of salary," as "the higher salary has chained him to the one place, and, as a result, he has remained an ordinary assistant until the end of his days."

On the question of promotion within the department, Mr. Elford is of opinion that this is often neither in the best interests of the council nor of the individual. It often means a reduction in the standard of the department.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

The annual bowls match between the Metropolitan and Southern Districts of the National Association of Local Government Officers was played at the Paddington Bowling and Sports Club on June 23. The Metropolitan District entertained their Southern visitors with right royal hospitality, and the arrangements made by Mr. T. F. Dunning (Hon. Sports and Recreations Secretary) were excellent. After the match the teams sat down to supper, with Mr. Frank R. Finch (Deputy Director of Education, Willesden) who is president and chairman of the Metropolitan District, in the chair, supported by Mr. D. Llewellyn Griffiths, O.B.E. (a member of the National Executive Council and chairman of the Southern District Sports Committee); Mr. A. J. Croxford, and Mr. W. Seymour (the respective captains).

The bowls scores were as follow:

Rink 1.—*Metropolitan:* Messrs. Tuffin, Goble, Munday, and Le Gassick (skip), 17. *Southern:* Messrs. H. Parry, R. Davey, J. B. Spedding, and J. Porter (skip.), (Bucks County) 16.

Rink 2.—*Metropolitan:* Messrs. Blackmore, Canfor, Thatcher, and A. Croxford (Capt. and skip.), 22. *Southern:* Messrs. C. Woodward (Berks.), E. Slade, G. W. Manning (Reading), H. Johns (Berks.) (skip.), 17.

Rink 3.—*Metropolitan:* Messrs. Gray, Randall, Dunning, and Crowther (skip.), 31. *Southern:* Messrs. H. Barton, D. Ll. Griffiths, F. Whitehead, and F. Garside (skip.) (Aldershot), 17.

Rink 4.—*Metropolitan:* Messrs. Land, Kingston, Williams, and Rutherford (skip.), 27. *Southern:* Messrs. V. Jacob, T. L. Easby, W. J. Seymour (capt.), and W. Foxcroft (skip.), (Reading), 11.

Metropolitan District, 97.

Southern District, 61.

Lewty Cup Bowls Handicap

The sixth annual competition for the Lewty Cup bowls handicap at Preston attracted 100 entrants, members of the Preston branch of the Association. The semi-finals on July 5, produced exciting matches. Mr. T. F. Cliffe (rec. 2), defeated Mr. W. Nicholl (rec. 6) by 21 shots to 20, and Mr. W. Kenny (rec. 3), won his match with Mr. S. Ninfield (rec. 6) by 21 shots to 19. In the final, Mr. Cliffe, the hon. secretary of the event, won by 21 shots to 12. The prizes were presented by Mrs. J. F. Simpson, wife of the Borough Electrical Engineer, who also presented the original cup given by Mr. Lewty to Mr. S. Barnes as a tribute to his work as hon. secretary for five years and as twice winner of the trophy.

Porthcawl Branch has played a series of three cricket matches to date, and has succeeded in two games. The movement is receiving good support.

In connection with the Competition for the N.A.L.G.O. Cricket Shield, West Middlesex cricket team played Barnes in the First Round at Ickenham, and the result was: West Middlesex batted first and scored 135 runs; Barnes scored 28 runs; win for West Middlesex by 107 runs.

Metropolitan Motoring Club

This newly formed section is now making headway, and since the opening run in May last, five events have been held. On Saturday, July 1, a party thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the Zoo at Whipsnade. Picnic tea was taken in the grounds at Whipsnade and in the evening the whole party enjoyed a short tour through Tring, Ivinghoe, etc. On Sunday, July 9, the first all-day outing was held, and a party of twenty-nine enjoyed a trip to Elmer Sands, near Bognor. Picnic lunch was taken in Houghton Forest. A Scavenging Hunt was organised in connection with this outing, and the winner of the competition was Mr. H. F. Hammond (Middlesex C.C.). The next event, a Treasure Hunt, will be held on Sunday, August 13.

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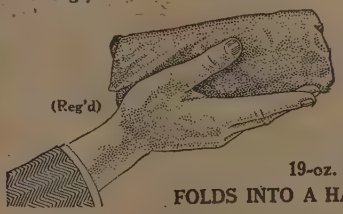

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HOLIDAY RESOLUTIONS

How I Will Help the B. and O. Fund

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Conference is over, and I am on holiday! But for some reason my mind continues to wander back to Folkestone, the Conference Hall, and in particular, to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Purse Session.

As an annual contributing member of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of N.A.L.G.O., I had, until this Conference, felt quite a good fellow in so far as doing my duty by the Fund was concerned. The lesson learned by me at the Conference Purse Session has left me with very little feeling of satisfaction, and, to add to the disillusion, every time I hear my children laughing happily an inner voice taunts me with annoying questions such as: "Have you done all you can for the N.A.L.G.O. orphan children?"

A Sound Policy

The Benevolent and Orphan Fund policy of educating and caring for the children of deceased members is indeed admirable. I have yet to hear of an organisation which has such a generous, and at the same time sound, policy in force for children of members who have been left unprovided for.

Sitting in the Conference Hall, I listened to the chairman of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund announcing the results of the Purse collection, and I could not help feeling that at the back of his mind was the thought that, good though the results of the collection were, they ought to have been considerably better, having regard to the fact that the collection represented the contributions, etc., of over 75,000 local government officers. We were told that the Committee of Management of the Fund had hoped to obtain £15,000 from the Purse Session, but only £13,884 was received.

Where I Have Failed

My thoughts go back again and again to that Saturday morning, and the following is a summary of the directions in which I feel I have failed this great section of our great organisation:

(1) I have not done my share towards helping to make the whist drives and dances held in aid of the Fund as financially successful as they might have been. Really, I will see that I do more in this direction when I return from my holiday.

(2) I have not done my share towards the collection of tinfoil on behalf of the Fund. It is rather a nuisance keeping tinfoil in my pockets, but no excuses for the future. I will do my share in this direction. Surely the Fund and all it stands for are worth a little trouble!

(3) Amateur Photographic Competition. No—last year I did not enter for the competition, but those children on the beach will make delightful pictures for entry in the competition, and even if I do not get a prize, well the Fund will benefit just the same.

(4) Have I done my share towards seeing that every colleague in my office is a contributing member of the Fund? No—as a matter of fact there are several who are not, but it is going to be my first duty when I return from my holidays to see that they are all members before the end of 1933.

£20,000 Wanted

It may be that, as a result of my resolutions, I shall be the bearer to the 1934 Conference of an envelope which will bring the total collections up to £20,000, a sum much more in keeping with the dignity of local government officers and the Fund of which they are the guardians.

£3 per week added to the family income

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Age next birthday	Monthly Premium £ s. d.
25	1 10 0
27	1 11 8
30	1 15 0
32	1 18 4
35	2 4 2
37	2 6 8
40	2 12 6
42	2 17 6
45	3 8 4
47	3 15 0
50	4 8 4
52	4 18 4
55	5 18 4

1. £200 on death.
2. £3 per week for the balance of the 20 years and then
3. A further £800

Should death not occur within the first 20 years the sum of £1,000 will be paid when it does occur.

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LONDON TRANSPORT

New L.P.T.B. Branch of N.A.L.G.O. Formed

As from July 1 the new London Passenger Transport Board assumed control of most of the passenger transport undertakings within a radius of thirty miles of Charing Cross, and N.A.L.G.O. has formed the London Passenger Transport Board Branch, mainly composed of officers who were members of the Association up to June 30 and were employed by local authorities whose transport undertakings have been transferred to the Board. The commencing membership of the Branch is 125, and there is every indication that this number will be substantially increased in the near future.

The creation of this Board is of considerable interest as indicating a further step in the trend of development towards the establishment of public corporations for the administration of services on a regional basis. An outstanding instance of this was the formation of the Metropolitan Water Board under the Metropolis Water Act in 1902, the membership of which is composed of representatives of the constituent authorities of the water area. The statutory area of supply now covers 573 square miles embraced within six administrative counties.

Another interesting case is that of the Port of London Authority constituted under the provisions of the Port of London Act, 1908, and established on March 31, 1909. This authority consists of eighteen elected members and ten appointed members. Development on lines of a somewhat different character was represented by the constitution of the Central Electricity Board under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926, and by the formation of the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1927, the members in both these cases being appointed by the Government for a fixed term.

The Transferred Undertakings

Eighty-nine transport undertakings, with a total capital of approximately £120,000,000, have been transferred to the London Passenger Transport Board. These undertakings consist of five railways, fourteen tramways, sixty-two omnibuses, four coach, and four subsidiary undertakings. The passenger-carrying vehicles number 11,430, as follows: On underground railways, 3,000; omnibuses, 5,350; coaches, 420; on tramways, 2,600; trolley omnibuses, 60. The number of passengers carried in 1932 was 3,463,000,000, and the staff employed by these undertakings numbered 71,900.

Among the municipal transport departments now under the Board's control are those of the London County Council, and of the Boroughs of Barking, Croydon, East Ham, Ilford, Leyton, Walthamstow, and West Ham; and the Urban District Councils of Bexley, Dartford, and Erith. Nearly 20,000 members of the administrative and outdoor staffs of the municipal tramway undertakings have been transferred.

APPROVED SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT SCARBOROUGH

THE annual general meeting of the Nalgo Approved Society was held at the Town Hall, Scarborough, on July 1, under the chairmanship of Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E., the junior vice-president of the association.

The report of the Committee of Management showed a net increase of membership of 171, the total at the end of the year being 19,514. The percentage of voluntary contributors was forty-four, an increase of one per cent. The Society's scheme of additional benefits has been of immense assistance to those members who have qualified to receive such benefits. Five thousand, four hundred and seventy-four claims were admitted in 1932, in comparison with 4,669 in 1931. In consequence of the number of officers who enrolled as a result of the passing of the 1929 Pensions Act, approximately 3,865 extra members became entitled to participate in the Society's scheme of additional benefits from January, 1933. The Society's largest expenditure under additional benefits was incurred in providing members with dental treatment. Two thousand, six hundred and ninety-two claims were admitted, involving an expenditure of £3,917 19s. 2d., an average of £1 9s. 1d. per case.

The claims for hospital benefit were exceptionally high during the year 1932, a total amount of £531 11s. 7d. having been paid to ninety-three members, giving an average of £5 14s. 4d. per case. Assistance towards the cost of surgical appliances was given to 130 members at a cost of £115 9s. 11d. The demand for optical benefit continues to increase, 2,343 claims having been admitted in 1932, as against 1,914 claims in 1931. The sums authorised amounted to £1,878 8s. 10d., showing an average grant of 16s. per case.

The Nalgo Convalescent Home at Matlock was the means of assisting the recuperation of 293 persons during the year. The cost of running the home during 1932 was £1,757 2s. 8d., as compared with £1,665 0s. 10d. for the year 1931.

The income and expenditure account of the Society showed a total expenditure of £27,741 14s. 7d., At the end of the year the accumulated funds amounted to £173,074 14s. 4d. Investments at December 31, 1932, totalled £172,837 12s. 10d.

Record Membership

The report was submitted by Mr. R. W. Coppock, chairman of the Committee of Management, who said that the membership shown in the report was the highest ever reached by the Society. He appealed for a special effort to secure additional members. A pleasing feature of the year's work, he added, was that no fewer than 5,574 members had taken advantage of the Additional Benefits Scheme.

The chairman expressed thanks to the local correspondents for their valuable assistance in the work of the Society.

The report was adopted.

On behalf of Leeds Branch a notice of motion was submitted to the effect that in future the annual meeting of the Approved Society should be held at the conference of the Association. Mr. Nolan (Leeds) said that it had been found that at one conference some 300 members could have attended the meeting of the Approved Society if it had been held at conference, whereas under the present arrangements attendances were very disappointing. The chairman pointed out that the two days allocated to conference were very fully occupied. On his suggestion it was decided to ask the National Executive Council of the Association what facilities might be afforded for holding the annual meeting at conference.

Management Committee

Mr. Heron (Sunderland) moved that the following be appointed members of the Committee of Management:—

Manchester, Mr. V. Cartlidge; Liverpool, Mr. L. H. Cain; Leeds, Mr. J. W. Purchon; Salford, Mr. S. Crawford; West Riding, Mr. F. C. Stapleton; London C.C., Mr. E. Gentle; Durham C.C., Mr. F. Wise; Bolton, Mr. A. Bowker; Lancashire C.C., Mr. J. A. Hubbard; Birmingham, Mr. B. H. Newcombe; Coventry, Mr. T. E. Brierley; Cardiff Mr. R. W. Hedley.

Mr. Gordon (East Ham), seconded.

Mr. Russell (Stockport) moved the addition of the name of Mr. H. N. Smawfield (Oldham).

It was pointed out that for the past twenty-one years the principle governing the election of members of the Management Committee had been that the branches with the largest membership in the Approved Society were represented on the Committee, and the Oldham proposal would upset this principle. After discussion, Mr. Coppock promised that the Committee would investigate the question of the election of members of the Management Committee and submit a report to the next annual general meeting.

The twelve nominees mentioned above were elected.

Mr. Coppock referred to the resignation of Mr. W. J. Blainey (Barry), one of the trustees, and moved the election of Mr. J. W. Pickup (Blackpool) in Mr. Blainey's place. Mr. Pickup was elected.

Mr. L. Hill, the Secretary, reported that Sir Arthur P. Johnson wished to retire from the post of vice-chairman. The resignation was accepted, and Mr. F. C. Stapleton (Wakefield) was elected as vice-president, thus creating a vacancy on the Committee of Management, which is to be filled by the branch with the next largest membership in the Approved Society.

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MINISTRY'S ANNUAL REPORT

VIEWS ON SERVICE QUESTIONS

As is customary in connection with the annual reports of the Ministry of Health, a number of matters of direct interest to local government officers arise from the department's report for the year 1932-33, which has just been issued. On the question of the appointment of medical officers of health, the minister regards it as important when a vacancy occurs that the field of selection open to the local authority should be as wide as possible, and that the vacancy should not necessarily be filled by the appointment of an officer who is already on the staff of the authority. As regards the question of whole-time appointments of medical officers of health, arising out of Section 58 of the Local Government Act, 1929, it appears that most of the county councils have decided to defer the formulation of arrangements until after the review of county districts has been undertaken.

Attention is drawn to the question of private practice by officials of local authorities. Broadly speaking, the Ministry point out, the matter is one for the employing local authority, and the right of the official to engage in outside work depends upon the terms of his appointment. Where, however, the minister's approval to an appointment by the local authority is necessary, the official is usually required to give an undertaking to abstain in private business from any work arising out of, or in any way connected with, the discharge of official duties, and the department suggest that a similar condition might well be imposed on all officials of local authorities who are allowed to practise privately. The minister has advised local authorities who consulted him that the fundamental principle is clear: an official must not find himself in a position where he owes inconsistent duties, and should therefore not act professionally in any matter on which he has advised or might subsequently have to advise the local authority.

During the year the minister approved the adoption of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, by seventeen authorities separately or in combination, and 61 agreements under Section 5 (3) of the Act by which authorities who have adopted the Act admit to its benefits officers and servants of other authorities or statutory undertakers. At March 31, 1933, the total number of local authorities who had adopted the Act either separately or in combination was 482 (44 county councils, 56 county borough councils, 5 metropolitan borough councils, 73 borough councils, 180 urban district councils, 79 rural district councils, and 45 miscellaneous authorities), and 603 admission agreements were in force. Approximately 200,000 officers and servants have been brought within the Act by means of the ordinary procedure prescribed by the Act. In addition, a considerable number of poor law officers who did not exercise the option to remain subject to the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, came under the provisions of the Act of 1922.

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

THE PROBLEM ON MERSEYSIDE

Mr. T. S. Simey, lecturer in Public Administration in the University of Liverpool, has contributed to the series of pamphlets on the social survey of Merseyside a valuable review of the question of local government on Merseyside. Here is an area which can be said to constitute a sharply-defined social unit. Apart from the County Councils of Lancashire and Cheshire, there are twelve separate authorities governing distinct divisions of the area. In recent years the tendency of the population of the area to spread outside the existing limits has, according to Mr. Simey, led to increasing lack of co-ordination between the various local authorities. Half a century ago local administration was a mere matter of co-operation between Liverpool and Birkenhead. Since then, however, Liverpool has more than doubled in area, and many thousands earning their livings in the city have been obliged to make their homes outside its boundaries.

Several attempts have been made from time to time to bring about full co-operation between the authorities. These, however, do not appear to have met with much success, and Mr. Simey deplores the "lamentable fact" that there is to-day no authority to represent what may be called "Merseyside opinion." In some spheres of administration, notably in connection with public utilities, co-operation has been established, though possibly it has not achieved the measure of success which was anticipated. Mr. Simey suggests, indeed, that during recent years the trend of events has been rather towards increasing separation than towards unity and he is of opinion that, if the present state of affairs continues, "the consequences are likely to be disastrous." It is suggested that progress, if it comes at all, is likely to be in the direction of the federation of the various Merseyside authorities, rather than unification which would create an organisation of unwieldy size and perhaps out of touch with the social life of the inhabitants of the area. Mr. Simey appears to favour as a possible solution of the problem the creation of a Liverpool County Council, based to some extent upon the pattern of the London County Council, but with less centralisation and a spirit of co-operation between the central and the constituent authorities. In short, the Merseyside authority would be a co-ordinating rather than an executive authority.

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from the Secretary, Social Survey, 19 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, price 7d., post free.

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SCOTTISH NOTES

RESTORATION OF SALARY CUTS

The movement in Scotland for the restoration of salary cuts has now definitely set in. In the counties of Ayr and Stirling the cut was for a definite period, which terminated on May 15 last. Clydebank Town Council had fixed no definite period, but the Association raised the question of restoration, and the Council accepted the suggestion. Paisley Town Council have modified the cuts. Where a 2½ per cent cut was made in salaries ranging from £156 to £299, the reduction is restored, and on salaries above £300, where reductions of 5 per cent, 7½ per cent, and 10 per cent were made, half that amount has in each case been restored.

Superannuation

Paisley Town Council had the question of superannuation under consideration at its last meeting, and it was decided to get a report with the object of adopting a scheme.

District Sports

The arrangements for the Annual Sports Day, which is to be held at Bridge of Allan on September 16, are now being made, and particulars of the competitions in golf, bowling and tennis have been issued to all our Scottish branches. Every member is free to compete, and all who, though not wishing to compete, would care to spend a pleasant Saturday outing amidst beautiful surroundings, are free to go and take their friends with them. Members will get full particulars from Branch Secretaries or from Mr. S. H. Brodie, the Sports Secretary, whose address is City Assessor's Dept., 40 Cochrane Street, Glasgow, C.1.

Inter-Branch Competitions

On Saturday, June 24, golf and bowling matches were played at St. Andrews between members of Dundee and Fife branches. The golf match resulted in a draw, but the Fifers beat the Dundonians at bowls.

WHAT DO WE GET FOR OUR RATES?

The London County Council, the largest local authority in the world, controlling an area of 117 square miles, with a population of nearly 4,500,000, expends every year the huge sum of almost £40,000,000 of public money. Its annual revenue, indeed, exceeds that of some European states. Yet at the last election for county councillors in 1931, not more than 543,000 electors out of a total of 1,954,000 in the contested divisions took the trouble to record their votes. This is but a reflex of the apathy of the people throughout the country in regard to local government affairs. How is this lamentable state of affairs to be bettered? Unquestionably, one effective method is by the publication of such acute and forceful pamphlets as "The Parish Pump," by Mr. C. Kent Wright, B.A., Town Clerk of Stoke Newington (Ivor Nicholson & Watson, Ltd.); "Local Government Face to Face," by A. C. Stewart, B.Sc. (Econ) London (Ivor Nicholson & Watson, Ltd.): and "The Riddle of the Rates," by W. Ivor Jennings, M.A., M.B. (*Local Government Chronicle*). These little books discuss many phases of local government administration in simple and untechnical language, and they successfully seek to justify local government to the ratepayers. None who spend a profitable hour or two in perusing these pages can have any doubt as to what they get for the rates they pay. They would, for instance, learn that the cost of all local services, whether met out of rates or taxes—services which represent the difference between savagery and civilisation—is less than the charges required for the interest and management of the National Debt. Arrangements have been made with the publishers whereby members of N.A.L.G.O. who order copies through their branch secretaries, may obtain them at the trade price of 9d. per copy instead of the retail price of 1s.

NOTES FOR READERS

By JONAS PRAPS

IT is surely unusual, if not unique, for a University Professor to fiddle his way through Hungary and Roumania, but this is what Professor W. Starkie did, and how he did it is delightfully described in *Raggle-Taggle* (Murray, 10s. 6d.). It is true he had certain ports of call where money awaited him, but for the most part he earned his keep with his violin. The idea of the journey arose first through a promise to some Magyar gipsy prisoners after the war, but it was not until ten years later he set off on his tramp. More than anything the book displays the wonderful power of music. The author had many trying experiences, frequently sleeping in the open-air or sharing very shady quarters with the lowest of the low and the none too cleanly. One night, long after sunset, footsore and weary, he perceives a solitary light among the trees. Knocking in the hope of obtaining lodging, he meets with a harsh reception. Undeterred, he plays two tunes dear to the Magyar heart, and in a few moments is admitted as an honoured guest. There are, too, many delightful descriptive passages, and if I need make choice should class *Raggle-Taggle* as my first selection this month.

* * *

Round the World in a Baby Austin (Hodder, 7s. 6d.) is in much lighter vein. Hector Masquarrie and his friend, Dick, have some interesting experiences, and they are sufficiently attractively told to make quite good holiday reading.

* * *

The same may be said of Denis Mackail's new book, *Having Fun* (Hodder, 7s. 6d.), a collection of his short stories. The first story, "A Day with a Débutante," is an excellent skit upon the multitudinous engagements of a flighty, forgetful young thing, full of charm and vim, and her equally bright young companions. There are many other stories equally clever and cheery.

* * *

The *Glory Hole*, by R. A. Thompson (Duckworth, 8s. 6d.), describes the experiences of a young man who, having failed to make the expected fortune in Australia, returns to England in a third-class liner as assistant butcher's mate. He details his experiences with his mates—Bill, the butcher, with his pimply face and cigarette-cadging habit; Alf and Inky—most of whom were "lousy" somethings in the opinion of their under-strappers. Life on shore at ports of call and among the passengers is portrayed from within and from the point of view of a subordinate member of the staff.

* * *

Lowell Thomas has already given us samples of his powers as a story-teller, and in *This Side of Hell* (Long, 10s. 6d.) he recounts the adventures of Dan Edwards. Edwards was the man who unveiled the memorial to the 1st American Division at Washington. He ran the gauntlet in gambling dens in Mexico, was a cowboy in Texas, and served in the Greek and Chinese Armies, fit training for the trenches in the Great War. You need not fear for entertainment.

* * *

The following books make quite good holiday reading:—

Hyde Side Up, by Ben Travers (Bodley, 7s. 6d.) is not so funny as the usual Travers books, but it has a crook interest with its comic side. It would, I think, be impossible for the author to exclude humour entirely.

A reprint of Roland Pertwee's *Fish Are Such Liars* (Heinemann, 3s. 6d.) is good value. It contains some thirty stories with a variety of interests.

Round England in an Eight Pound Car, by Terence Horsley (Nicholson, 6s.), is vivacious without being too exciting. You might do worse than take it with you to Cayton Bay.

* * *

Alma Kaslin is a young Austrian, an accomplished linguist, who needs must earn a living at the close of the war. In *The Odyssey of a Lonely Woman* (Gollancz, 18s.) you may read the story of her experiences in Central and South America, the South Seas, and Australia in search of work. I have in these notes expressed some doubt concerning the authenticity of many recent travel experiences, and it is almost unbelievable that a girl could emulate, let alone surpass, some of the personal travel adventures recently commented upon. Her experiences were frequently fraught with danger, disease and difficulty. Her search for work often exposed her to conditional offers which would not have been applicable to a mere man. The writing is usually good, the descriptive parts excellent if one can overlook the slip that her seemingly endless walk at one place in search of work was done "on an empty stomach."

THE "GUILDHALL GAZETTE"

We announce with pleasure the launching of the Middlesex County Officers' Association Magazine, the *Guildhall Gazette*. Though modest in size, prompted by a desire to avoid attempting too much at the start, the Gazette should form a medium for the dissemination of news of interest to all our members and will provide a ground for the discussion of topics both grave and gay. County Alderman Howard S. Button, the Chairman of the County Council, sent a message praising the corporate spirit which exists and inquired whether a little space would be reserved for the members of the County Council—they, too, being "of the Guildhall." Mr. E. S. W. Hart, Clerk of the County Council, contributed an interesting article on the history of the Guildhall, Westminster, and its site. Mrs. G. Barnes, Chairman of the Establishment Committee, addressed a message to the staff. The first issue is a very creditable production, and we wish the *Guildhall Gazette* long life and success.

SOUND ADVICE FOR CRITICS

Be honest and fair in your criticism. Get the facts. Then take a broad outlook and appreciate the position as it affects the whole, and not yourself alone. Your criticism will then be helpful and not harmful to the welfare of all. And if you look at things in this light, your criticism will be welcomed by all the Committees and Secretaries of N.A.L.G.O.; your criticism will be valued as being thoroughly worth while.—*The Municipalist*, organ of the Bath Branch.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE POLITICAL QUARTERLY (Vol. IV, No. 3—July-September, 1933. (Macmillan & Co., Ltd., St. Martin's Street, London, W.C.2.) 5s. net.

The current number of the *Political Quarterly* is as full of interest as any of its predecessors, and covers a very wide range of subjects. The following list of contents will give some idea of the literary richness of this publication; The Future of Political Science in America, by G. Bernard Shaw; The Political and Social Doctrine of Fascism, by Benito Mussolini; Essay in Law Reform, by Sir Maurice Amos: the Psychology of Hitlerism, by Professor Harold D. Lasswell: The House of Lords and Legislation, by A. L. Rowse: The Rising Tide of Racketeering, by Gordon L. Hostetter and Thomas Beesley: Surveys and book reviews. There is only one way of fully appreciating this pot-pourri of world-wide subjects and that is to read the book from cover to cover.—D. J. P.

* * *

ENCHANTED WAYS. By John Prioleau. (Messrs. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.) 5s. net.

This is a book for the contemplative owner of a car who finds in the matchless scenery of England and Scotland that peace and pleasure of mind no other can give. It is much less a travel book than an undated diary—one written by the roadside in summer, winter, autumn, spring: in dark weather and in serene: at sunrise and in the lengthening shadows of evening. Sketch maps show some of the hundred ways he has followed, sometimes exactly illustrating the text, sometimes suggesting alternatives. It is not a book which attempts to lay down rules about how or where the inexhaustible delight of exploring England should be begun and continued (that journey, says the author, has no end); but a record of the infinitely variable beauty of landscape and seascape as it appears to the seeing eye and the understanding heart. It is a book for those who know these things as much as for those to whom they are still a buried treasure.

* * *

DENTS' DOUBLE VOLUMES. (Messrs. J. M. Dent & Sons.) 5s. net each.

This new series comprises those classic works in popular demand which are obtainable in *Everyman's Library*, only in two-volume form. Here the two volumes are issued as one book—and make a double volume in name and nature, a convenient and friendly tome whose unusual chubbiness will appeal to many readers. The binding is a special feature. As well as being pleasant in appearance, these books are unusually strong. They are the most likeable things we have handled for a long time, and we don't care how soon we have rows of them in the library. They are homely to a degree and inspire affection. The first twelve volumes contain *Pepys's Diary, The Decameron, Tom Jones, Capital, The Life of Dr. Johnson, The Wealth of Nations, Anna Karenina, The Count of Monte Christo, Confessions of Rousseau, Don Quixote, Morte D'Arthur*, and *The French Revolution*.

* * *

To say that a new novel entitled, *The Green Arrow*, is by the author of *Captain Lucifer* and *The Pride of the Ring* is to say that Ben Bolt has added one more to a long list of first-rate thrillers created by himself. You have a gentleman engaged in the hazardous calling of espionage. He has paid the avenger's due and on his body is found a jade carving. Such sort of ornament is the personal fancy of Princess Wandu and one of two more. The connection so revealed involves an intricate plot and the end is reached in Ben Bolt's happiest manner, with tightened grip all through. There's more than one example of jade lure! (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d.)

DISTRICT COMMITTEE AND BRANCH NEWS

South Western District Committee

The South Western District Committee held its quarterly meeting at Torquay on July 8, when Mr. C. J. Newman presided, and the delegates were welcomed by the Town Clerk of Torquay (Mr. H. W. Hield).

Consideration was given to the question of the formation of Provincial Whitley Councils, and it was evident from the discussion that there were many difficulties to face, some of which will not be easy to negotiate in an area such as that covered by the Committee.

Grants were made to two new branches which have been formed in the area, namely, the Forest of Dean Branch and the South West Gloucester Branch. The question of the extra rebate of 5 per cent. to County Branches was referred to the Executive Committee.

The Committee elected Messrs. Middleton (Plymouth); Hargreaves (Cornwall); Conduit (Gloucestershire); and Whitburn (Exeter), as their representatives on the B. and O. Regional Committee.

After the meeting delegates were entertained to luncheon by the Torquay Branch.

Woking and District

A general meeting of the Woking and District Branch was held at the Council Offices, Bagshot, on July 6, at the kind invitation of the clerk (Mr. F. J. Wareham), who also supplied the company with light refreshments during the evening. The president, Mr. T. C. Penn (Rating and Valuation officer, Woking) was in the chair, and among the thirty-six members present were Mr. F. H. Smith, Clerk of the Woking Urban District Council, and Mr. J. Saxton, Clerk of the Frimley and Camberley Urban District Council. The reports showed that since the annual meeting the membership had increased from sixty to eighty-two, and that the branch now covered the areas of the following authorities; Woking Urban District Council: Frimley and Camberley Urban District Council: Chertsey Urban District Council: Bagshot Rural District Council, and Guildford Rural District Council. Mr. F. R. Finch, president of the Metropolitan District Committee, was a welcome visitor to the meeting. He gave an interesting address on local government and the work of the Association.

New Gloucestershire Branches

The newly-formed Branch for South-west Gloucestershire held its first meeting on June 21, Mr. J. B. Kendall presiding. Lieut.-Col. Sir Seymour Williams, K.B.E., was unanimously elected president; Mr. J. B. Kendall, Deputy Clerk and Rating Officer to the Chipping Sodbury R.D.C., was elected chairman; and Mr. E. A. Turner, also of Chipping Sodbury, was appointed honorary secretary. There is every reason to believe that this branch will soon be able to report a 100 per cent. membership.

A new branch has also been formed for the West of Gloucestershire, covering the Parliamentary Division of the Forest of Dean, and is to be known as the Forest of Dean Branch. Mr. H. A. Jones, Clerk to the West Dean R.D.C., is the chairman, and Mr. A. F. Gillo has been appointed honorary secretary and treasurer.

North Devon

A special meeting of the North Devon Branch was held at Barnstaple on June 19, when Mr. L. Hill, the general secretary, gave an address on the activities of the Association and the action taken during the Government Economy Campaign.

Cannock and Brownhills Outing

Good weather favoured the annual outing of the officials of the Cannock and Brownhills Urban District Councils, on May 25, when the party travelled by motor-coach to Llangollen and thence to Bala, where luncheon was served. Later they proceeded to Welshpool for tea.

LORD MAYOR CONDEMNS THE "CUTS"

Candid criticism of the policy of salary cuts was expressed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin (Alderman A. Byrne) when he extended a civic welcome to the fourteenth annual conference of the Irish Local Government Officials' Union. The work of local government, he said, was constantly becoming more complex, and it was a tribute to the high standard of ability of the officials that the changes necessary to meet modern developments could be effected without a hitch. On those officials fell the burden of the administration of unemployment relief schemes occasioned by the dark times through which the world was passing. For the success and efficiency with which those schemes had been executed the country owed a debt of gratitude to local officials on whose uncomplaining shoulders the work of administration had fallen. For this past and continuing loyal service the only reward of the local official was to be a reduction in his already low remuneration! To the Lord Mayor it seemed that it must be a self-evident fact that any diminution of the spending capacity of the people could only result in an aggravation of the present economic conditions which had been brought about largely by mal-distribution.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THAT LETTERS INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION IN L.G.S. SHOULD BEAR THE SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS OF THE WRITER, NOT NECESSARILY FOR PUBLICATION. LETTERS SHOULD BE BRIEF.

SCOTTISH SUMMER SCHOOL

(*Continued from page 210*)

with decentralisation: (6) avoid being absorbed in detail: (7) stimulate initiative and loyalty in his staff.

At the closing session, MR. G. H. HENDERSON, Department of Health for Scotland, Edinburgh, dealt with "Poor Law Administration." He said one of the most important principles of Poor Law administration was based on the theory that society was organised in groups and that the State is not so much a collection of individual units as an amalgamation of groups. In its application to Public Assistance this conception required that when relief was given it should be calculated on the basis of the family as a unit and should be given only when the family resources, and not merely the resources of an individual, required it. Many of the difficulties that Public Assistance Committees had to contend with at the present time had their origin in a desire to break away from this principle.

Sports Competitions

The following are the results of sports competitions held in connection with the Scottish Summer School;—

General Secretary's Prizes for Golf. Played over Eden Course and won by—Ladies—Miss Dorothy H. Nicoll (Dundee): Gents—Henry Archibald (Edinburgh).

Prizes by the Education Convener (Mr. Chaston) for Tennis. Played on Kinburn Courts — American Mixed Doubles — Miss Helen Cameron (Perth), Mr. J. M. Weir (Greenock).

Putting — Ladies (First) Miss Emma Gibbon (Edinburgh): (Second) Miss Helen Cameron (Perth). Gents—(First), A. M. Anderson (Dundee): (Second) C. C. Duncan (Dundee).

SERVICE CONDITIONS

Superannuation

Gloucestershire County Council recently designated an additional eighty posts, as from July 1, 1933, under the Superannuation Act 1922.

Ramsbottom Finance Committee have been considering the question of superannuation and an actuary's report is to be obtained.

The Middlesbrough Corporation General Purposes Committee, following an application received from the Association, decided to recommend the Salaries Sub-Committee to adopt the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922.

An important decision has recently been reached regarding two Manchester Public Assistance officers who were officers of the local authority on November 12, 1928, and were also in the service of the authority on April 1, 1930. In both cases there was a break in the service between these two dates and the Corporation contended that they were therefore not transferred officers within the meaning of the Act, and under the amending scheme of the Corporation were deducted, from the more recent date of appointment, contributions at the rate of 5 per cent. under the superannuation fund. It has now, however, been established, after legal opinion, that they are technically transferred officers, and superannuation contributions at the rate of 11 per cent. should be deducted instead.

Salaries and Grading

The Association some months ago put forward proposals to amend the West Bromwich Grading Scheme by the addition of a new class, and also urged the payment of merit awards on passing approved examinations. These suggestions have now been approved by the General Purposes Committee, and adopted by the Council.

The Divisional Secretary has had an interview with the Barnoldswick Urban District Council in respect of the grading of certain members of the staff. The majority of the members of the staff of the Accountant's Department have been graded and an application was made for similar action to be taken in respect of certain members of the staffs of the other departments. The matter is still under consideration.

Institutional and Nursing Staffs

The draft scales of salaries and conditions of service for Institutional and Nursing Staffs on which the Association has been engaged for some time past are now completed and will be issued in the near future to the District Committees with a request for their observations.

Local Joint Committee

Some time ago the Divisional Secretary submitted an application to the Cannock Urban District Council to establish a Joint Advisory Committee, and also met the council on the matter. It is pleasing that the proposal has now been approved, the committee to consist of twelve members, six of the Council and six appointed by the Association.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

(*Continued from page 214*)

With regard to the Bill which is now being drafted re compulsory superannuation, I know it is in good hands, but I would suggest that in addition to submitting it to the several Associations of Local Government Authorities it should also be submitted to the various professional bodies whose members are interested.

Yours, etc.,

H. LONGDEN.

Carshalton Branch.

HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "Everyman's Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

CHATS with flower-lovers in the Service, often casual but always enjoyable, leave one with the clear conviction that Roses hold a strong lead in the favour of members, and, further, that certain varieties are particularly popular. For example, everybody seems to be in love with Shot Silk, Mabel Morse, Dame Edith Helen, Etoile de Hollande, General MacArthur, Ophelia, Angèle Pernet, Los Angeles, Betty Uprichard, Mrs. Herbert Stevens and Madame Butterfly. Golden Emblem has followers, devoted rather than numerous, for this variety, unexcelled in beauty when at its best, is unfortunately fastidious. Most of the others named are satisfactory "doers" and, this being budding month, may be increased by those who have Briers well furnished with strong young shoots. Showery weather in the early part of August comes as a boon to budders, for it encourages a free flow of sap and that helps very much when the pith is being removed from the bud. In this connection please refer to your Rose book for illustrations of bud-preparation and insertion.

There does not appear to have been so much mildew on Roses as there was last year, but growers generally find that one variety or other is attacked, and are prepared, if wise, to spend twopence now and then on an ounce of liver of sulphur, which will dissolve quickly in a two-gallon can or pail of water and go quite a long way with a good sprayer. Never buy this stuff in quantity, for it deteriorates rapidly: buy a little as needed.

For Growers of Lavender

Readers who are growers of Lavender may expect the flower-stems to be at full length and the bloom in deepest colour early in August. Cutting is best done while they are dry and a few days in the sun will mature them. And remember, please, that material for a fresh bed can be obtained quite readily if young shoots are inserted in sandy soil in the open now. A sheltered place, with shade during hot sunshine, is desirable.

A not less popular plant in Nepeta Mussinii can be struck now in the same way, and a good stock of it is a real asset in any garden. Short shoots from the base of the plants, not showing bloom, make suitable cuttings, but tips of the longer shoots may also be used. Few fail if kept close and shaded for a fortnight or so. These brief details supplement a passing reference to the plant last month.

I referred in my July notes to the surprise sometimes displayed by people when told to divide Flag Irises in the heart of summer, and perhaps equal surprise may be felt at a recommendation to divide and replant Paeonies, if necessary, in August or September, while many herbaceous plants are still in full bloom. The grower of many kinds of herbaceous plants will have observed, however, that the Paeony not only starts but also matures earlier than most: thus it can be dealt with, if convenient, before autumn comes. Do not, however, divide the plants, whether early or late, except for a good reason, as, for example, old age combined with seriously impoverished soil.

Sweet Peas

A neighbour who is very successful with Sweet Peas, brought me a bunch which included a ten-bloom stem. It proved to be a case of fasciation, several stems having, so to say, coalesced. The spray as a whole was not pleasing, as the flowers, large and brilliant enough, sprawled in all directions. The same grower's four-bloom stems were infinitely more attractive. Two of the best varieties, I thought, were Unwin's Lilac Domino and Scarlet Flame, both in the front rank without a doubt. In my own collection Mayfair and Welcome stand out as great acquisitions. The raisers claim the former as an improved Pinkie, but the tone of colour is not the same with me, the standard having a salmon rather than a rose shading: both should be grown, as they are very vigorous sorts. Welcome is one of the finest of scarlets—a real top-notcher. Growers of Sweet Peas on single stems will have had a busy time lately, as growth was so rapid in July that almost daily tying was called for. Exacting? Yes, but pleasant none the less.

Antirrhinums have again been a great success this summer. For bold effects with rich masses of colour the old intermediate sorts Crimson Queen and Golden Queen remain unexcelled. I associated them in groups in a long border with masses of blue and rose Stocks and really the effect was magnificent from the house some 100 feet away. But for a bed of one variety give me Nelrose, now an established favourite. This lovely Snapdragon ought to be grown to itself in order to get the most enjoyment out of its perfect habit and lovely harmony of colours, which vary a little with the age of the blooms but are all exquisite. The popular Bonfire in another bed is effective, but not so beautiful as Nelrose.

Cuttings

Do not forget that the present is a good time to strike cuttings of any favourite Antirrhinum. Short shoots which have not reached the flowering stage can generally be found on the lower parts of the plants, and these, prepared about three inches long, inserted in sandy soil, and kept close in a frame, soon root.

Ageratums, white Alyssums, Carnations, Zonal Geraniums, Gazanias, Heliotrope, Lobelias, Marguerites, Pansies, Pentstemons, Petunias, Verbenas and Violas are other plants which may be struck from cuttings this month. Two of these, Alyssums and Lobelias, make the loveliest of margins if planted alternately 15 ins. apart in May. Carnations are of course often layered, but many amateurs get on quite well with cuttings.

It is not uncommon to be asked if there is an inexpensive and reliable remedy for the disease which regularly browns the foliage of candidum Lilies. The trouble is caused by a fungus called Botrytis cinerea, which is always at its worst when the Lilies are grown on damp sites. On the other hand, a site exposed to cold winds, and heavily manured soil, also encourage it. As regards expense in fighting the fungus, there is practically none, because an ounce of liver of sulphur, costing twopence, may be dissolved in two gallons of water and sprayed on, but it must be applied at the first sign of disease to be of any use and may have to be repeated. I mention the matter now because this is the month for planting candidums, bulbs being available much earlier than those of most kinds. People whose soil is heavy or rich should give it a good liming before planting and lay the bulbs in sand four inches below the surface.

Looking Ahead

I hope I shall not exasperate those of my readers who make a practice of living for the present and of letting the future look after itself by reminding them of winter, but there is a good reason: it is that bulbs of Early White Roman Hyacinths, Paper White Narcissi, and Freesias become available for potting or putting in fibre this month: also that it is a suitable time for sowing under glass Clarkias, Cyclamens, Schizanthuses and Winter Stocks, all to bloom in the greenhouse next spring except Cyclamens, which will need nearly another year's growth.

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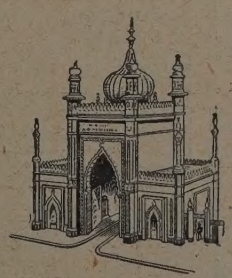

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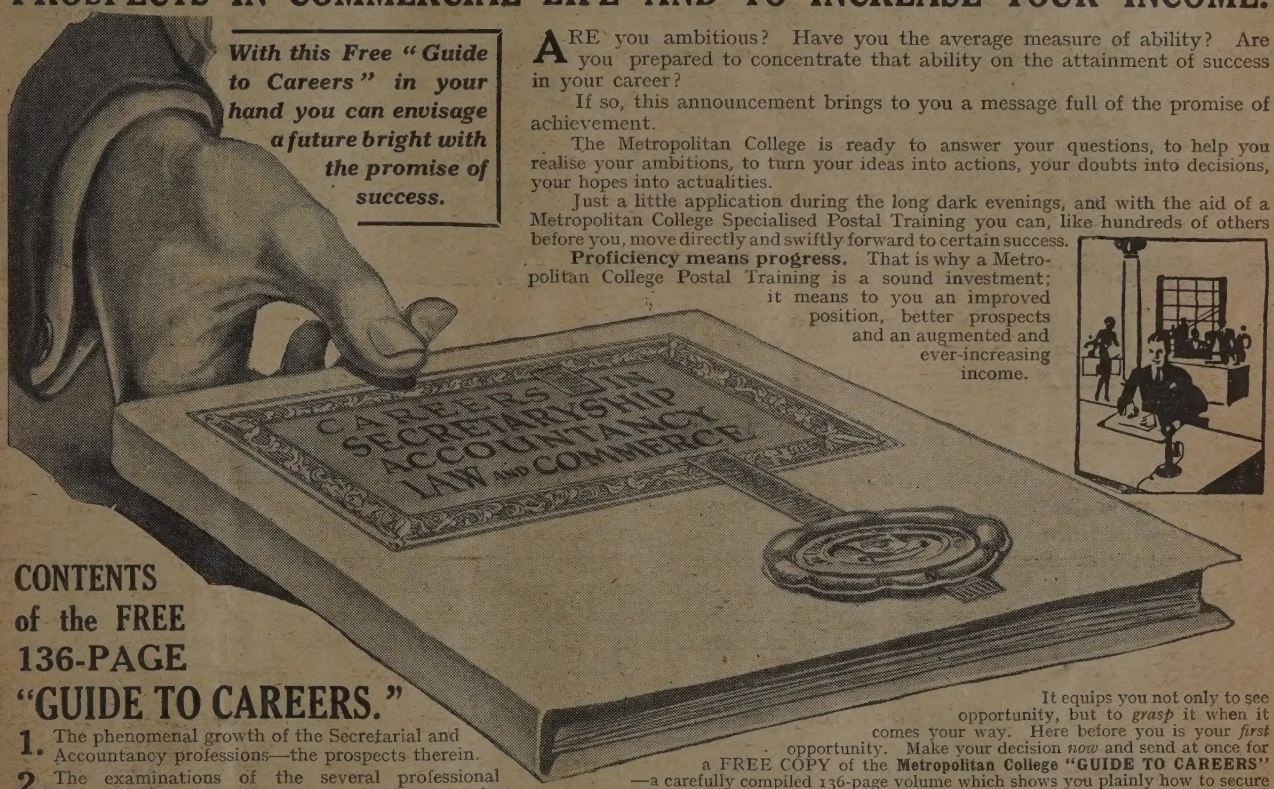

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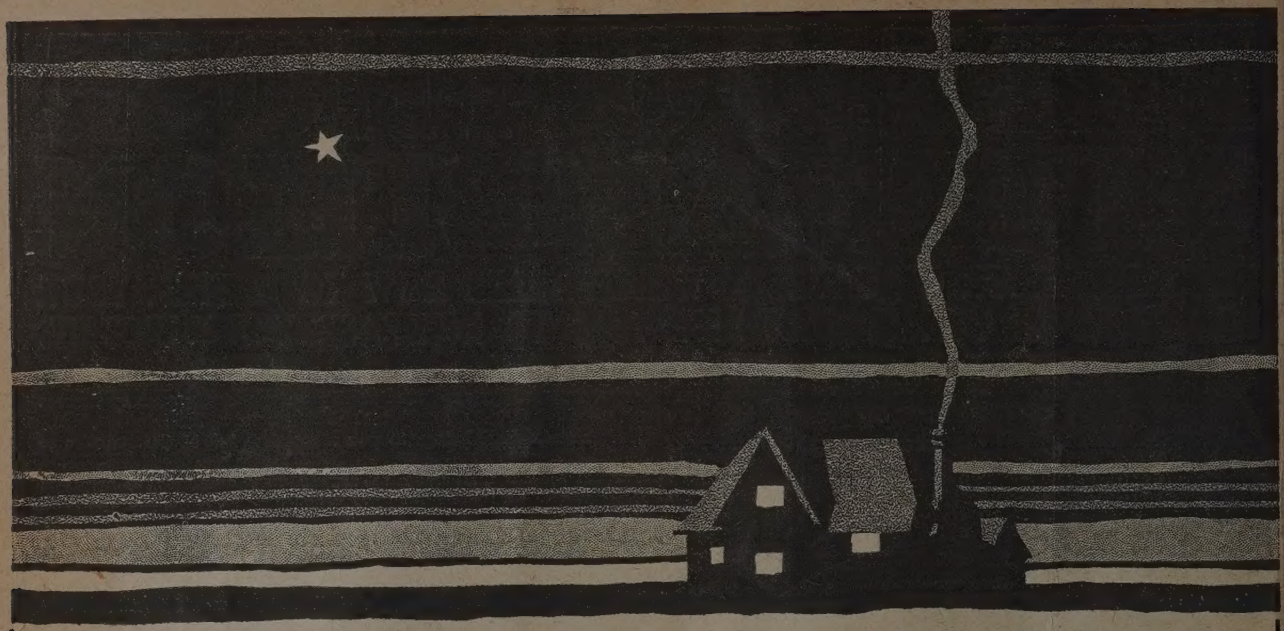

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